Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 282 | WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Gunman used different guns in Friday's rampage. PAGE 3

Fugitive lawyer Arriola set to appear in court today. PAGE 6

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the CNMI is ready for the federal takeover of its immigration system this Friday?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of November 24, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

'Sleeping Beauty'

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will be staging a holiday extravaganza that has never been seen before on Saipan.

LOCAL...Page 13

Emergency

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo placed two provinces under a state of emergency after gunmen killed at least 24 people.

ASIA...Page 17

Two counts of federalization suit dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The judge handling the lawsuit filed by the CNMI government to block the federal takeover of the local immigration system dismissed yesterday two of the three-count lawsuit, saying the CNMI failed to prove its case.

Friedman

See DISMISSED on Page 4

COUNT 1

The CNMI claims federalization is in violation of sections 103 and 105 of the Covenant. Section 103 authorizes the CNMI to exercise local self-government. Section 105 bars the U.S. from abrogating that right without CNMI consent.

DISMISSED

COUNT 2

The CNMI claims that federalization is in violation of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution. It said Congress could not enact a law that exceeds its Article 1 powers to enact legislation relating to the Commonwealth.

DISMISSED

COUNT 3

Jenner & Block argued that the defendants violated the Administrative Procedure Act by promulgating the regulations required by Public Law 110-229 without giving the CNMI and other stakeholders notice and an opportunity to comment.

PENDING

...as Fitial weighs his options

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he will examine U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman's opinion first before making any decision about a future course of action on his anti-federalization lawsuit that the judge dismissed yesterday.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who sued the governor in local courts for not releasing spending records on his anti-federalization lawsuit, said it is in the best interest of the CNMI that Fitial's lawsuit has been dismissed.

"Hopefully, the billing records can now be opened up, and we can also move on

See AS FITIAL on Page 4

CBP officers begin arriving for the Nov. 28 fed takeover

'No US visa, no entry into CNMI'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the stroke of midnight on Nov. 28, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers will take over immigration control at the Saipan International Airport where they have started setting up their offices.

Among other things, the federal takeover means U.S. visas will be required of foreigners for entry into the CNMI, just like in Guam, Hawaii, and the rest of the United States.

The CNMI is the last U.S. territory that controls its own borders.

See CBP on Page 4

Fitial, Inos: Absentee votes will not change results

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, addresses the crowd at the Covenant Party headquarters on Middle Road early Tuesday morning after the results of the first gubernatorial runoff election came in, giving him a 501-vote lead over Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider. From left, House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, Esther Basa and her brother Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, first lady Josie Fitial who is celebrating her 47th birthday today, and the governor. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos expressed confidence that the counting of some 1,000 absentee ballots on Dec. 7 will not change the outcome of Monday's first gubernatorial runoff election in CNMI history.

See VOTES on Page 4

Local

Fitial approves modified QC for PTI call center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved a new qualifying certificate for PTI Services Inc., giving the company new tax breaks so it could expand on its $3.2 million call center investment.

Manuel Sablan, executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority, said the governor signed the modified QC on Nov. 11 upon the recommendation of CDA.

PTI Services Inc., the first call center business on island, was granted a 100 percent abatement of its business gross revenue tax until it reaches the investment cap of $3.2 million. This will enable the company to compete with other call centers in the Philippines and India.

The company earlier told Saipan Tribune that an amended qualifying certificate will enable it to continue its partnership with the government.

The company earlier threatened to recall its expansion plans and may move to other countries if it fails to get the additional incentives it is asking from the government under the QC program.

The company was seeking 100 percent abatement in the business gross revenue tax for 20 years, a five-year excise tax abatement, and 10-year income tax abatement. Under its existing QC, PTI Services Inc. was provided 20 years BGRT relief, based on 5 percent of the projected wages and salaries.

The additional incentives under the modified QC are expected to help defray the expected impact of higher labor wages due to federalization, which may be as high as 30 percent.

Under the approved QC, the company shall contribute on an annual basis $25,000 to establish a scholarship program to benefit CNMI public and private high school students.

It will also allow PTI Services to successfully compete with other jurisdictions and create more jobs for local residents.

The governor approved the call center's first QC last July.

CDA earlier said the decision on the new QC will be a "win-win" situation for CDA and the company.

PTI Services Inc. was the 14th QC issued by CDA under the government's qualifying certificate program. It is the first to receive the certificate in 2009.

DPH assures adequate supply of H1N1 vaccines for 3 islands

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health assured yesterday that all three islands will have a sufficient supply of the H1N1 vaccines in coming days, enough to meet the demand.

Dr. Richard Brostrom, Commonwealth Health Center Medical Director, said the department expects the next vaccine shipment to arrive in early December.

Brostrom

The hospital has already received 6,700 vaccines since the first shipment in October. Brostrom said the CNMI expects to have 56,000 doses for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Last week, nearly 200 students under the Head Start program received the H1N1 shots from the hospital's vaccination team.

DPH targets to finish all 13 Head Start Centers and about 20 day care facilities on island this week.

Brostrom said they are scheduled to start administering the vaccines to elementary students in public schools before moving on to junior and high school students in both private and public schools.

The Public School System has nearly 11,000 enrollees this school year.

Brostrom said that since the shots are not mandatory, a significant number of the vaccines can be provided to students in private schools.

"Our target is to make these doses available to the community starting in December," he said.

Brostrom said the hospital is currently maximizing the use of its nurses so they can assist the vaccination teams in administering the program.

"I know we're short of staff…but this is a priority," Brostrom said, adding that six to eight nurses are needed to efficiently conduct the program.

Health officials described the vaccines as both "safe and effective" and no serious side effects have so far been noted.

School staffers are being required to undergo training by the department to ensure that a proper system is enforced in giving out the vaccines to school children.

The CNMI has yet to record any H1N1-related deaths.

Health officials said the H1N1 virus is still prevalent on the island and emphasized the importance of following the Flu Watch steps to protect the public from both the seasonal and the H1N1 flu.

Police sergeant is arrested for allegedly beating up girlfriend

A police sergeant who was arrested last week for allegedly beating up his girlfriend was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $10,000 cash bail for the temporary liberty of Sgt. Joseph A. Agulto.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing for Nov. 30.

The judge ordered that 43-year-old Agulto not be issued a firearm without a court order. Govendo directed him to turn in his personal guns to the Court Marshal's Office. Govendo said Agulto's other personal guns should remain in the control of the Department of Public Safety.

Detective Andrea Ozawa stated in her report that Agulto beat up his girlfriend at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio and at the USSP Club in Garapan.

Ozawa said police officers responded to USSP Club on Friday shortly after receiving a call at 1:48am about a disturbance at the club.

Ozawa said that when a police officer arrived at the club, the victim was seen trying to hide behind the bar counter and was crying.

Further investigation showed that on Thursday night Agulto picked up the victim and brought her to Pakpak Beach where he allegedly tried to stab her with a pair of pliers. She was able to grab the tool and throw it away.

Agulto then allegedly pointed a gun at the victim and threatened to kill her that night but she managed to calm him down.

Agulto and his girlfriend proceeded to a family member's house where they had a few drinks. The group then proceeded to the USSP Club where Agulto allegedly punched her right leg, shouted profanities at her and threatened to smash a can of beer on her face.

When Agulto picked up a can of beer, the victim ran and hid behind the counter. Someone called the police.

Police arrested Agulto at 2:13am that day for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Gunman used different guns in Friday's rampage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The gunman in Friday's shooting rampage in Kannat Tabla and Marpi used different guns in the attack, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

"The victims were shot with different caliber weapons, including a .223 caliber rifle and .410 shotgun," DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said.

Li

Tarkong also disclosed that Guam medical examiner Aurelio Espinola conducted an autopsy Sunday on the five fatalities, including the killer, Li Zhong Ren.

He could not say whether all four weapons recovered at the crime scene were used in the shooting until Espinola's autopsy results are out.

Tarkong, however, stated that the four guns recovered—a .223 caliber rifle that Li strapped on his shoulder, and the three semi-automatic rifles that were found in a Toyota Previa van—were all loaded with bullets.

The van was registered with the previous owner of the shooting range, who passed away about a year ago.

Li had over 750 rounds of ammunition, including .223 caliber bullets, .410 shotgun rounds, and .22 magnum ammunition in the van.

Tarkong said the 42-year-old Li had a valid entry permit as an employee of the Kannat Tabla shooting range, which was closed in April 2009.

"The shooting range should not be operational, which means that whatever guns that were there should not have been used," he said.

The law requires a person to be a U.S. citizen in order to possess a firearm.

"The investigation in the case is ongoing. Because of its sensitive issue we will not comment further on the details unless approved by the DPS commissioner," Tarkong said.

According to Labor records, Li worked as a marketing representative with his last employer—Agustin C. Deleon Guerrero.

Li first came to Saipan in 2002 where he worked as an ironer with the Rifu Apparel Corp. In 2006, he moved to another garment manufacturer, Syung Seung Saipan Inc. In 2008, he went back to Rifu Apparel. In May 2009, he started work with Deleon Guerrero.

Li shot dead four persons, including two children, and injured another child at a house next to the shooting range in Kannat Tabla. He proceeded on a van to the Last Command Post in Marpi where he opened fire on a group of Korean tourists, wounding seven. He went to Banzai Cliff where he tried to burn his identification cards and other documents in the van. Li then went to the edge of the cliff where he shot himself under the chin.

Li reportedly left notes in plain view for police to find, which indicated that the killing "seems premeditated."

THANKSGIVING TREAT

Members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan serve food to the community's senior citizens as part of the club's annualThanksgiving luncheon for the elderly or man'amko, at the Office on Aging in China Town yesterday. The Rotary Club not only contributes to relief programs for victims of fire, typhoons and other disasters, but also provides scholarships to academic achievers and donations to sports, youth development programs and other community services.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Child survivor in Kannat Tabla shooting unaware of kin's fate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The girl who survived the shooting rampage in Kannat Tabla last week remains unaware of the fate of her father and baby sister, who were both killed in the tragedy.

Public Health Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom disclosed this yesterday, following his announcement that 4-year-old Dolores Naputi has been moved from the intensive care unit and is now confined at the pediatric section of the hospital.

"[She]'s now doing well and was removed from ICU to pediatric ward after her condition was downgraded from critical to guarded," Brostrom told the media during yesterday's news briefing.

He disclosed that Dolores Naputi is expected to continue to do well and will possibly be discharged later in the week. He conceded, though, that this traumatic experience will be a lifelong process for the child.

Naputi's attending physician reported that the girl is now talking and interacting with hospital staffers and her family.

Naputi was in critical condition after she was shot in the chest by gunman Li Zhong Ren, who later killed himself after shooting dead four other persons on Friday. Seven others were also wounded in the shooting spree that occurred in Marpi's Last Command Post.

DPH, through Dr. Brostrom, expressed its condolences to the families and community members affected by the tragedy.

A Korean man who was earlier reported in critical condition after being shot in the back was transported Saturday night by a Care Jet to a hospital in Korea. The bullet reportedly shattered his spine.

Brostrom said CHC is now awaiting a full update of the man's condition, which he described as stable when transported.

The victim was admitted to the National University Hospital in Korea, according to Brostrom.

"We expect a full recovery of the patient," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that all injured patients admitted to the hospital last Friday were separately discharged from Saturday to Sunday morning. All of them have returned to Korea.

He disclosed that six doctors attended to the victims on Friday, with the help of a number of nurses and attendants.

"CHC really stepped forward to provide outstanding care to all victims and other members of their family," he said.

Because of the traumatic incident, the hospital's mental health arm—the Community Guidance Center—was called in to provide counseling assistance to families and community members.

Friday's tragic event was a first in recent CNMI history and is expected to impact the tourism industry in general.

I just got a great pair of glasses for
just $77.00!
at Marianas Eye Institute

Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
- Lens & Frames included
- One-year warranty
- Selected Brands
- Lightweight lenses
- $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals

Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Let the Palms do all the cooking and celebrate Thanksgiving in style.
We have different options for you to choose from
for just $70.00 /set
Thanksgiving Packages
Package A - Roast Turkey (9-10lbs) with the Palms Resort Stuffing and Natural Gravy
Package B - Roasted Ham Leg (9-10lbs) with the Palms Resort Stuffing and Natural Gravy
Package includes:
Garlic Bread / Caesar Salad / Marinated clear glass noodle with vegetable
Garlic Mashed Potato / Chef DJ's Mango Pie or Pumpkin Pie
Orders must be made 2-days in advance.
Thanksgiving Brunch
Enjoy an array of traditional Thanksgiving cuisine with family
$35.00 adult & $17.50 child
Minami Restaurant
Thursday, 11/26/2009 (FREE POOL USE)
The Palms on PauPau Beach
For more information or reservation, just call Imee at 322-3311.

VOTES

From Page 1

Once the Commonwealth Election Commission certifies the result of the runoff election, Fitial will serve for another five years instead of four as a result of a legislative initiative ratified in the Nov. 7 general elections.

"I expect to do a lot more [in five years]," he told reporters, soon after the counting ended around 1am Tuesday morning.

The governor said his administration will continue to fix the CNMI's utilities, particular water and sewer, and is now poised to lift the emergency declaration for power.

Fitial, who will turn 64 on Friday, will be the first governor to be re-elected into office since 1985.

"We are confident we will win this election after the absentee ballots are tabulated so I want to extend a very sincere appreciation to all the people who helped our campaign. As I stated outside, we are going to need the support of the people in order for us to successfully achieve the goals and objectives of our second term. Thank you CNMI," he said.

501 votes

The Covenant Party ticket of Fitial and Inos defeated the Republican tandem of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios by 501 votes.

The Fitial-Inos ticket received 6,313 votes, while the Hofschneider-Palacios camp got 5,812 votes, based on partial unofficial tally by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

The Republicans need to secure 70 to 80 percent or more of the absentee ballots to win but Covenant Party members said this is impossible.

"Do the math," Fitial told reporters.

He said even if Hofschneider leads by 400 votes in the remaining absentee ballots, he said he will still have a lead.

In the general elections, Hofschneider got 194 more votes than Fitial among absentee voters.

Fitial said independents helped him win the election, in addition to his loyal supporters and other voters who believed in his and Inos' proven leadership and experience.

Applause

After the last ballots were manually counted at past 1am yesterday, Covenant Party members and supporters erupted into applause and cheers at the party headquarters on Middle Road.

Fitial and Inos, surrounded by family members, addressed the crowd in the vernacular, thanking them for their support and at the same time asking them for continued support to make the administration's projects and plans a success.

Inos also wished everyone a "happy Thanksgiving holiday."

In the Nov. 7 general elections, Hofschneider edged Fitial by only eight votes, the CNMI's closest gubernatorial race.

A runoff election was held because none of the four gubernatorial candidates in the general elections got at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast. The runoff election had a 76 percent voter turnout compared to 86 percent during the general election two weeks ago.

"When we started seeing negative campaigning from the other side, it's a very strong indication of desperation so I don't like dirty campaigning. It doesn't serve anybody any good," Fitial told reporters.

He added, "We don't need change. We need to 'fix' and we've been fixing ever since."

The Hofschneider-Palacios tandem had been advocating "change" in leadership, versus Fitial-Inos's "proven leadership, proven experience."

How the CNMI voted

Hofschneider beat Fitial in only two general election districts: Tinian (District 6) and Kagman (District 5).

But when it comes to specific election districts, Hofschneider won in six of 14. Thus, in addition to Districts 6 and 5, Hofschneider also won in District 1A (San Antonio), District 3B (Garapan), District 4B (San Roque), and District 4C (Capital Hill).

The first ballots to be counted by the Commonwealth Election Commission board led by chair Frances Sablan were those from absentee voters, who gave Fitial a 115-vote lead over Hofschneider, 275-390. Some 1,200 other ballots were sent out but not all of these are expected to be returned.

In the Nov. 7 general election, Hofschneider got more absentee votes than Fitial, 792-598.

When the Tinian votes were counted, Hofschneider managed to narrow Fitial's overall lead to only 35. Hofschneider received 453 votes on Tinian, while Fitial got only 373.

In Chalan Kanoa/Susupe which is Election District 2, Fitial received 496 votes versus Hofschneider's 466. This slightly increased Fitial's overall lead by 65.

When the ballots from Precinct 1A or San Antonio were counted, Hofschneider led Fitial by 19 votes in the overall count. The Republican candidate got 340, while the incumbent governor got only 256 in this precinct.

Fitial regained his lead when ballots from Precinct 1C or Koblerville were counted. He got 443 votes, while his opponent received 372. The incumbent was leading by 52 votes at this time.

On Rota or District 7, Fitial got 459 votes while Hofschneider got 424, bringing to 87 Fitial's overall lead.

Fitial was able to further widen his overall lead by 176 when he got 935 votes from District 1B or San Vicente compared to Hofschneider's 846.

Votes from the Northern Islands or District 4D increased Fitial's overall lead by 220. He got 91 votes while his opponent got 47.

In Kagman or District 5, Hofschneider edged Fitial but only by six votes, 926-920. Fitial's overall lead slightly decreased by 214.

The 885 votes that Hofschneider received from District 3B (Garapan) versus Fitial's 780 narrowed the incumbent's overall lead to 109.

Fitial bailiwick

But when ballots from District 3A (San Jose) were counted, Fitial's overall lead shot up to 461. San Jose, a bailiwick of Fitial, delivered him 534 votes, while Hofschneider got only 182.

In Tanapag or District 4A, Fitial got 307 votes, while his opponent got 208. The incumbent's overall lead reached 560. The support of former independent lieutenant governor candidate, House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, and his supporters in Tanapag helped the Fitial-Inos ticket win in this area.

In San Roque or District 4B, Hofschneider got more votes than Fitial, 227-203. This brought Fitial's overall lead to 536.

Capital Hill or District 4C gave Hofschneider 161 votes, more than Fitial's 126. This gave Fitial an overall lead of 501 over Hofschneider.

As of early Tuesday morning, Fitial had not received a call from the Republican Party to concede the election.

"I will just wait. Maybe he wants to see the result of the absentee. I respect that. It's part of the process," said Fitial.

The Hofschneider-Palacios ticket could not be reached for comment.

CBP

From Page 1

Fingerprinting and eye scan will also become main fixtures at the airport, just like anywhere in the U.S.

Edward H. Low, public affairs liaison at CBP's San Francisco office, said yesterday CBP officers started arriving on Saturday, and more were expected to arrive last night and tonight in time for Saturday.

Between 40 and 50 CBP officers will be on Saipan for the takeover of local immigration.

"The CBP officers will be ready to do their job on Nov. 28. …As the operation continues, we will assess the staffing needs and either add or subtract as many as we need to," Low told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday morning.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act puts CNMI immigration under federal control effective Nov. 28.

"CBP is going to do its best to make this transition as seamless as possible. Our main focus is to make sure the borders are secured…and at the same time we want to facilitate travel and we will do our best to make sure that that happens," Low said.

In October, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave CBP access to the immigration facilities at the Saipan airport for federal personnel to be able to set up equipment and others needed for its eventual takeover.

CBP Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations Thomas S. Winkowski led a team of CBP officials in an operational visit to Saipan in October.

"We have the access we need so far," said Low, adding that the CBP offices at the airport are being prepared now.

Jerry Aevermann, CBP's current assistant port director in Guam, will be the interim port director for the CNMI.

Included in the 40 to 50 CBP temporary duty personnel in the CNMI are those from Guam.

There is no telling yet whether any of the current CNMI immigration officers who applied for CBP jobs have been able to secure employment.

Low said the way CBP officers will process people coming into the CNMI from foreign countries would be the same way that CBP officers do in the continental United States, Hawaii and Guam.

"In other words, the people who will be given admission into the CNMI require either a U.S. passport, a U.S. permanent resident alien card, a valid U.S. visa or they have to be citizens of nations that belong to either the visa waiver program, or the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, with the exception of Chinese and Russian visitors," he said.

Low reiterated that foreign workers need to secure the relevant U.S. visa to be able to re-enter the CNMI starting on Nov. 28.

CBP is the unified border agency within DHS charged with the management, control and protection of U.S. borders at and between the official ports of entry.

Foreign workers need to obtain a CW-1 visa from a U.S. embassy, after securing a CW-1 status in the CNMI.

AS FITIAL

From Page 1

toward repairing relations with the federal government, and adjusting ourselves to the reality that federal immigration law will apply here beginning on Nov. 28," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Fitial said his special legal counsel, Howard Willens, is traveling to Washington, D.C. this Sunday to consult with their counsels, Jenner & Block, on Monday.

"After those discussions, I expect to receive a recommendation from counsel regarding both of Judge Friedman's decisions," the governor said in a statement.

Just like Fitial, Sablan also looks forward to reading Friedman's opinion in full, expected to be released later this week.

Sablan said she would have been "very surprised if the lawsuit hadn't been dismissed."

She said even Willens and his Washington, D.C.-based counsels had acknowledged that the chances of prevailing were very slim.

"We had been cognizant of those slim odds when we rejected the administration's request for an appropriation for the lawsuit. We had also worried that litigation would compromise our ability to negotiate and communicate with the federal government as the regulations were being developed. As it turns out, we were right," said Sablan.

Fitial sued the federal government challenging certain provisions of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, saying its labor provisions are unlawful under the terms of the Covenant agreement between the United States and the CNMI.

On Monday in Washington, D.C., Friedman issued an order dismissing Counts 1 and 2 of the CNMI's amended complaint challenging certain provisions of P.L. 110-229.

Fitial said he believes the CNMI presented in this litigation very substantial questions with respect to the Commonwealth's right to local self government under the Covenant.

"We had excellent representation from our lawyers in Washington, D.C. We respect Judge Friedman and appreciate the time and careful consideration he gave to this case. We look forward to examining his opinion before making any decisions about our future course of action on this matter," he said.

Friedman also intends to issue an order and an opinion later this week on the CNMI's motion to stop the Department of Homeland Security's publication of its Interim Permit Rule without complying with the notice and comment provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

This motion was argued before Judge Friedman on Monday.

Sablan said taxpayers now need to find out exactly what the anti-federalization lawsuit has cost the CNMI, and the public services that have been affected.

DISMISSED

From Page 1

"After careful consideration of the parties' papers, their exhibits, the relevant case law, the statute and the Covenant, the court concludes that the [CNMI] has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted with respect to Counts I and II of its amended complaint, and that those claims therefore should be dismissed," said U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman in a two-page order.

The judge did not provide any further explanation, saying he will issue an opinion explaining the reasoning underlying his order later this week.

As a result of the dismissal, Friedman said, the CNMI's motion to prevent the implementation of certain provisions of the federalization law, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, is moot. The Act is also known as Public Law 110-229.

Friedman granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the complaint.

Friedman first heard oral arguments on March 12, 2009, on the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the complaint and the CNMI's first motion for a preliminary injunction.

The CNMI then filed an amended complaint, adding a claim that, according to the judge, is not relevant to the motions.

In the CNMI's amended complaint, it named as defendants the U.S.A., U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, DHS, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, and U.S. Labor.

The CNMI, through the Jenner & Block law firm, asked the court to prevent these defendants from acting in violation of the Covenant and urged the court to issue a permanent ban against the implementation of federalization in the CNMI.

In Count 1, the CNMI claimed that federalization is in violation of sections 103 and 105 of the Covenant.

Section 103 of the Covenant authorizes the Commonwealth to exercise the right to local self-government and to govern itself with respect to its internal affairs in accordance with its Constitution. Section 105 of the Covenant forbids the U.S. from abrogating the Commonwealth's right to local self-government without its consent.

The CNMI argued that one aspect of the right to local self-government is the right to regulate internal labor and economic affairs and to secure the economic prosperity of local residents.

Jenner & Block said the some provisions of Public Law 110-229 abrogate the Commonwealth's right to local self-government by denying the Commonwealth the right to regulate its local workforce and economy.

The Commonwealth has not consented to this abrogation of its rights under the Covenant, the law firm said.

In Count 2, the CNMI alleged that federalization is in violation of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

Under the fundamental structural principle of limited powers that animates the U.S. Constitution, Jenner & Block said, Congress could not enact a law that imposes such a "burdensome, discriminatory and onerous federal regulatory regime" upon a state where the law was passed in a defective political process.

The law firm said the CNRA exceeds Congress' Article 1 powers to enact legislation with respect to the Commonwealth.

The CNMI asked the court to stop the implementation of CNRA provisions that "impose a burdensome, discriminatory and onerous federal regulatory regime on the Commonwealth."

Count 3 of the amended complaint refers to alleged violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. Jenner & Block argued that the defendants violated the APA by promulgating the regulations required by Public Law 110-229 without giving the CNMI and other stakeholders notice and an opportunity to comment.

This claim is still pending in court.

Jenner & Block said the defendants promulgated the DHS' Interim Permit Rule without notice and comment, in violation of the APA.

DHS, the law firm said, cannot establish "good cause" for its failure to comply with the notice and comment requirements of the APA.

DHS is set to implement federal immigration laws in the CNMI on Nov. 28, under the authority provided by the CNRA.

Kilili and 3 others introduce anti-domestic violence bill

Funding for NMI expanded

WASHINGTON, DC–U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) is an original co-sponsor of legislation that will increase funding for domestic violence shelters in the Northern Mariana Islands and around the United States.

Sablan, along with Reps. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Aaron Schock (R-IL), and Judy Biggert (R-IL) introduced the re-authorization of the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act on Nov. 19. The bill is numbered H.R. 4116.

"Right now there is only one shelter in the Northern Marianas—on Saipan. Tinian and Rota do not have shelters and that must be fixed," said Sablan.

"The legislation I have introduced with Ms. Moore, Ms. Biggert and Mr. Schock will increase funding for the national program from $175 to $250 million. It also changes the allocation for the Northern Marianas, so we should be able to provide for Rota and Tinian."

Under the provisions of H.R. 4116 the Northern Mariana Islands will receive the same minimum grant amount as a U.S. state, $600,000 per year, to prevent family violence, domestic violence and dating violence, and to provide immediate shelter and support to victims.

Currently, the CNMI receives about $120,000 annually.

In addition the Northern Mariana Islands will be eligible to receive the same share as a U.S. state for grants to domestic violence coalitions. If the Act is fully funded at the $250 million authorization level, this could mean $446,000 for the Northern Mariana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

"Thank you for reaching out to us and thank you for movement on this issue," wrote Maisie Bermudes, chairperson of NMCADSV, who advised Sablan on the need for the legislation and the increased funding for the Northern Marianas.

"I hope that with the increased means, our communities will reach an end to domestic violence," Sablan replied.

Other domestic violence advocacy groups are also praising the legislation.

"This is a vital step in ensuring safety and support for victims of domestic violence," said the representative of the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault. "We commend the great work of Congresswoman Moore, Congresswoman Biggert, Congressman Schock and especially the great leadership of Congressman Sablan for ensuring that critical services exist for women and children throughout the United States, including the U.S. territories."

"We are very excited about this news. FVPSA is critical to the lives and safety of all women and children, and we are particularly thrilled that HR 4116 includes language to ensure equitable funding for all U.S. territories," said Yolanda Bigio, president of La Coordinadora Paz Para La Mujer-Puerto Rico Coalition to End Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. "We know that much more work has to be done, but want to say 'Gracias.'"

The bill has been referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, where Sablan is a member. ***(PR)***

Celebrate and Give Thanks
Nov. 26, 2009
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Brunch
door prizes will be raffled... PLUS Bartender's Flair Show
Locals: $20.00 - for Adults
$10.00 - for Kids
Tourist: $25.00 - for Adults
$13.00 - for Kids
WIN A MONTH FOR FREE @
WORLD RESORT SAIPAN
Wave Jungle
WAVE CARD
UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2010
Purchase Wave Card
Enjoy the Wave Jungle
Submit completed card to enter raffle drawing
Two winners per month of November, December 2009 and January 2010
Winners will be announced monthly
Wave Jungle Information: Tel. no. 234-5900 ext.350/353
for reservations, please call 670-234-5907

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
2010 Health Insurance Rates
STAY WELL insurance
More benefits at a Lower Price!
CLASS | ACTIVE GOVT | BI-WEEKLY MEDICAL | BI-WEEKLY MED & DENTAL
Single | STAYWELL | $59.68 | $82.26
Aetna | $64.72 | No Dental Plan
StayWell Annual Savings = $131.04
Couple | STAYWELL | $119.36 | $164.52
Aetna | $132.68 | No Dental Plan
StayWell Annual Savings = $346.32
Family | STAYWELL | $190.81 | $240.18
Aetna | $207.10 | No Dental Plan
StayWell Annual Savings = $423.54
LAST CHANCE! Enroll by Nov. 30th
STAYWELL BENEFITS
Refund Program
Up to $500,000 off-island coverage per year*
100% coverage for off-island, in-patient care*
Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = $1,500; Couple = $3,000; Family = $4,500
*Some conditions apply
AETNA BENEFITS
No Refund Program
Up to $200,000 off-island coverage per year*
80% coverage for off-island, in-patient care*
Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = $4,000; Couple = $8,000; Family = $12,000
Contact STAYWELL
Phone: 323-4260/61/62 • Fax: 323-4263 • Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com
Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Fugitive lawyer set to appear in court today

Fugitive lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola is expected to be taken to federal court today, Wednesday, to face charges of wire fraud and money laundering.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's calendar indicated that Arriola is set to be brought to the court for an initial appearance hearing at 2pm.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday afternoon to reach assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler for more details about Arriola's hearing, but he was in a meeting.

Sources said the Philippine government completed its deportation proceedings against Arriola.

Sources said upon his arrival today at the Saipan airport, the fugitive lawyer will be taken to the U.S. Marshal's Office, then to the court.

A composite team of Philippine law enforcers arrested Arriola in June 2009 in a village in the northern part of the Philippines.

The lawyer was then turned over to Philippine immigration agents, who then processed his deportation to the U.S.

Philippine news reports showed that on April 27, 2009, Arriola went to the U.S. Embassy in Metro Manila to submit documents in preparation for his marriage to his fiancee, Jovie Cerveza.

The U.S. government charged Arriola and Luis Pelisamen with wire fraud and money laundering for stealing $625,575 from the Rita Kaipat estate's account.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator for the estate. Arriola served as then counsel for Pelisamen. Pelisamen was found guilty during his second jury trial and is awaiting sentencing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SSHS students see special screening of 'New Moon'

A total of 103 Saipan Southern High School students had a special screening of the highly anticipated movie, *New Moon*, at 9am Friday morning last week at the Hollywood Theaters in Oleai, Saipan.

The students enjoyed the early morning showing of the movie based on the book series written by Stephanie Meyer.

Melanie Cruz, a junior, said, " I think that all high school students should participate in this kind of field trips. It expands interest in the book."

Ann Mariel Flores, also a junior SSHS student agrees.

Saipan Southern High School students have their picture taken after a special screening of the movie *New Moon*, Friday last week at the Hollywood Theaters in Oleai, Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"You'll learn how to distinguish the book version and the movie interpretation. You'll learn to love to read," she said.

Johanna Cabrera adds, "It is a good experience to watch the movie together as a group knowing the Saipan Southern High School students were one of the first ones to watch it. It was like last year when we watched *Twilight*."

The *New Moon* movie field trip is a movie-book tie-in activity. It is one of the SSHS Library's reading programs this year.

Sudi Napalan, SSHS school librarian, said, "There are 75 books of the Twilight Saga in our school library and most of them have been checked out since the beginning of the school year. This should be a good sign of students reading more. I think the movie encourages the students more to read. The movie is entertaining but it is much more rewarding, for me, personally to see students opening and reading a book."

The SSHS Book Club hosted and organized the field trip and it yielded a full-house screening. This event was a collaboration of the SSHS Library and the SSHS Language Arts Department. SSHS thanks Hollywood Theater staff, Tasi Tours, Saipan Southern High School staff and faculty. ***(PR)***

USDA reminder: Vote in county committee elections

MAITE, Guam—Tom Camacho, county executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Guam urged eligible Guam and CNMI farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers yesterday to vote in FSA county committee elections by Dec. 7, 2009, the deadline for casting ballots.

"FSA county committees provide producers with the opportunity to help implement federal farm programs in their communities," said Camacho. "It is vital that all farmers and ranchers, especially women and minorities, participate in the elections process to ensure the opinions expressed in committee meetings reflect an area's agricultural sector."

Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by the close of business on Dec. 7, 2009. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2010.

FSA county committees help administer federal farm programs at the local level. Committee members make decisions on conservation programs; commodity price support loans and payments; disaster assistance payments; and other agricultural issues.

County committees consist of three to five elected members who serve three-year terms. Committees may also have one or more female or minority advisors to further represent the local interests of women and minority farmers and ranchers. Each year, one-third of all committee members are elected across the country. More than 8,000 county committee members serve in more than 2,300 local FSA offices nationwide.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in FSA programs. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm can vote. Agricultural producers in each country submitted candidate names during the nomination period held last summer.

For more information about FSA county committee elections, visit www.fsa.usda.gov and enter COC in the search option. ***(USDA)***

Hafa Adai yan Tirow People of the Commonwealth!

Thank you very much for your support in this historical gubernatorial election.

We recognize that the absentee ballots have not been fully counted and an absolute victory cannot be declared. Nonetheless, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the sacrifices, hard work, and dedication shown by all of you.

The passion exhibited during this campaign shows that our people care about the future of the Commonwealth deeply and we need to all harness this energy and work together towards making our Islands prosperous for all.

We have made great strides over the past four years in rebuilding and keeping our Commonwealth afloat and we pledge to continue achieving our goals with you at our side for the betterment of the Commonwealth. We have many plans that we have begun implementing and are eager to complete these projects to continue improving the lives of our Commonwealth.

We personally want to extend our thanks and gratitude to Congressman Joe Camacho, Dr. David Borja, Covenant members, Republicans, Independents, and Democrats for their support and trust. We pledge that we will make our supporters and community proud.

We extend our hands to Heinz and Arnold as they ran a formidable race.

This has been a very spirited campaign and we are very proud of the clean campaign that we ran.

We demonstrated that with Proven Leadership and Proven Experience you will get Real Results.

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

‘Hiring of personnel key to EPA compliance’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña said the agency’s noncompliance with the federal stipulated orders was brought on by not bringing in the right management personnel for CUC.

“CUC’s failure to achieve EPA compliance over the years can be attributed to not hiring the right management personnel, affecting continuity of training and funding sufficiency,” Muña said in response to Rep. Tina Sablan’s inquiry about CUC’s inability to respond and comply with the stipulated orders.

Muna said the hiring of Abe Utu Malae as CUC assistant executive director is key to creating change in corporate attitude, ensuring EPA compliance, and establishing the foundation of operational continuity.

Malae was hired on Sept. 8 this year. He joined the CUC management team to head CUC operations, including water and wastewater.

Muña said Malae brings to the table a track record of success in managing and operating a government-run multi-utility services provider similar to CUC that requires compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates.

EPA earlier said that CUC is not in compliance with the provisions of two stipulated orders and has accrued total of $630,000 penalties in the first six months. The stipulated orders deal with the Clear Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

Under Stipulated Order 1, CUC failed to comply with six provisions, which include failing to hire a full-time deputy executive director, full-time chief financial officer, and a full-time drinking water and wastewater division manager.

Under Stipulated Order 2, CUC violations deal with the non-reporting of an oil spill on Sept. 13 that caused or may have caused a substantial threat of discharge and for not placing each drum or containers used for the storage of oil in secondary containments.

Muña said CUC will respond to EPA’s warning letter. He pointed out, though, that CUC has already made great strides but EPA has yet to recognize these accomplishments.

He disclosed that CUC will hire Deloitte to complete CUC’s interim financial plan by Dec. 31—another EPA requirement—and will also engage a rate consultant to prepare for the March 2010 regulatory session of the Public Utilities Commission. Its organizational evaluation will also be accomplished and submitted to EPA by Dec. 31, according to Muña.

He said CUC will soon announce the position for chief financial officer while the position of water and wastewater manager has already been announced.

I don’t care if grandma’s house is just around the corner.You have to buckle up.
Buckle up this Thanksgiving
CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT
DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.
Cops are cracking down.
www.dps.gov.mp
664-9001/9085
DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

Nov. 25, 1999

US Senate adjourns without acting on federal takeover bill

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente yesterday expressed relief that the U.S. Senate has yet to vote on legislation seeking extension of federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas, which he said has given more time for island leaders to stave off such takeover proposal. Senators in Washington D.C. adjourned its first session last Nov. 24 and went on sine die without deliberating on the proposal contained in Senate Bill 1052. They are scheduled to convene their second session in the 106th Congress on January 24, 2000.

Sablan resigns from MVA Board

Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Ron D. Sablan has resigned as board member of the Marianas Visitors Authority. “I have decided that it is necessary for me to step down and concentrate on the implementation of HANMI’s objectives into the new millennium and specifically spend more time and energy into managing my family-owned Pacific Gardenia Hotel,” the HANMI chief said in his resignation letter addressed to Board Chair Dave M. Sablan. But sources privy to Mr. Sablan’s resignation said the hotel owner quit because of irreconcilable differences with tourism officials regarding policies on how to market the Northern Marianas as a vacation site.

Nov. 25, 2002

Govt owes NMIRF $92M

The CNMI government’s debt to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund has now ballooned to a staggering $92.043 million in all, representing unpaid contributions and the Fund’s supposed share in several taxes. These unsettled obligations have resulted in the Fund incurring a shortfall of $720,051 every month, since its monthly revenue is not enough to cover for all its monthly obligations, such as pensions. These came to light during Friday’s Board of trustees meeting, with Fund comptroller Noel Soria stressing that these outstanding obligations by the CNMI government is just with the Retirement Fund, and does not include its other obligations under the Group Health and Life Insurance Program and the Workers Compensation Commission.

Inmate cry prison ‘mismanagement’

Former Coastal Resources Management Office director Felipe Q. Atalig-a prisoner until he completes his jail term tomorrow-has taken the cudgels for his fellow inmates in complaining against the alleged mismanagement happening inside the corrections facility. Department of Public Safety commissioner Edward Camacho quickly responded to Atalig’s allegations, saying yesterday that he would task the Director of Corrections to look into the ex-CRM director’s complaint. Atalig, convicted of sexually harassing a female employee during his tenure as CRMO’s chief, complained of the situation inside the jail in a letter to Camacho.

Nov. 25, 2003

SNILD ‘condemns’ senators’ suspension

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation get ready to convene the session late yesterday afternoon at the House Chamber. Lawmakers of the Third Senatorial District stayed in session for a couple of hours mostly airing their frustrations and anger over the decision by the Senate majority to suspend all three Saipan senators. (Marian A. Maraya) The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation voted 14-0 last night to “condemn” the Senate majority’s action suspending Saipan senators Pete P. Reyes, Ramon S. Guerrero and Thomas P. Villagomez, and Tinian senator David M. Cing for 30 days. In a session that started nearly 5pm at the House chamber, Third Senatorial District lawmakers united to protest the suspension that has left Saipan and the Northern Islands without representation in the upper house.

‘Clarify Brown’s confirmation with legal question’

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation is supporting moves to ask the Judicial Branch to rule on the legality of the Senate majority’s confirmation of Pamela Brown as Attorney General during a Rota session last Nov. 17. House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider recommended that the legal question be submitted to clarify the legitimacy issue hounding Brown’s appointment. “A question should be filed as to the legitimacy of the AG confirmation. Let’s not look at Pam Brown. She’s not the issue. We’re not questioning the person but the process,” said the Saipan congressman.

NMI gets $1.9M Compact Impact grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was awarded yesterday a $1,930,443 Compact Impact grant that is intended to offset the impact of the migration of Freely Associated States citizens to the islands.

"Though the Commonwealth's fiscal year 2010 funding level reflects a decrease in the residence of Freely Associated States citizens on the islands, we feel that it is still important to mitigate their impacts and assist the local government as much as possible." said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta.

Section 104 (e) of Title One of the amended Compacts of Free Association describes Compact Impact assistance committed by the United States to the State of Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The goal of this financial support is to annually provide, through 2023, $30 million in grants to these affected jurisdictions to aid them in defraying costs incurred as a result of increased demands placed on health, educational, social, or public sector services, or infrastructure related to such services, due to the residence of citizens from the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau.

The $30 million distributed among the recipient areas is based on a ratio allocation to the government of each affected jurisdiction on the basis of population data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. The most recent enumeration was completed in fiscal year 2009 and the results were used to determine the distribution of the $30.0 million for fiscal year 2010. Hawaii's and Guam's share of the funding increased while American Samoa's and the Commonwealth's were reduced based upon the results. ***(OIA)***

7 missing aboard a skiff in FSM now safe

CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia—Search and rescue controllers with the U.S. Coast Guard in Honolulu and Apra Harbor, Guam, have determined that seven people reported missing in a skiff near Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia over the weekend have been reported safe on another island.

The seven had been reported missing Friday in a 19-foot fiberglass skiff from Chuuk, but turned up in the Hall Islands about 70 miles away.

A C-130 long-range search plane air crew from Air Station Barbers Point and a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion crew from Guam searched Monday and Tuesday for the seven people. The Coast Guard first received notice the seven were missing at noon Friday.

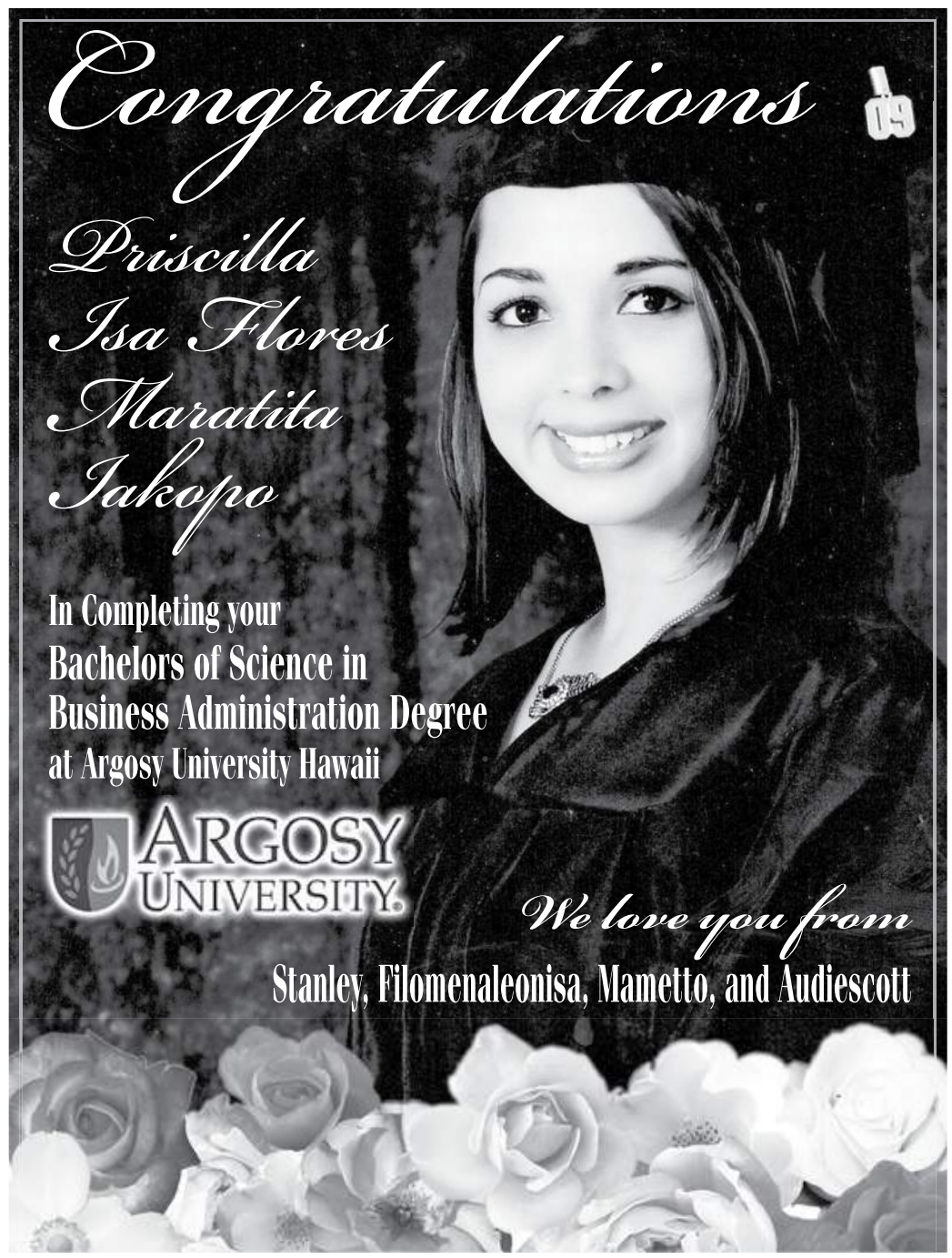
A Good Samaritan vessel bound for Fananu located the missing boat around 4pm. Saturday. The "Good Sam" towed the distressed vessel and seven people until that vessel encountered engine problems of its own and was unable to continue towing.

When the "Good Sam" was able to restart his engine, he reported the distressed boat was nowhere to be seen. The missing 19-foot vessel was last seen around 1am Sunday.

Coast Guard Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam coordinated a multi-agency search to include the U.S. Navy P-3 Orion dispatched from Anderson Air Force Base on Guam and organized a search that covered more than 2,500 square nautical miles.

The Coast Guard C-130 from Hawaii arrived on scene at 7:30am Monday, and a twin-engine aircraft from Caroline Island Airlines also assisted with the search. An additional Coast Guard C-130 search plane from Hawaii was expected to join the search yesterday afternoon before the seven were reported safe in the Hall Islands.

Weather on-scene was reported to be 25-knot northwest winds with waves up to 10 feet. ***(U.S. Coast Guard)***



WIN A THANKSGIVING FEAST

Enter to win a Thanksgiving feast for you and your family! Get an entry form with a $15 purchase of fuel and C-Store items combined, at any Shell station. One prize package to be given away at each Shell station. No purchase necessary. See store for details.

Prize includes:
Turkey (12-14 lb.)
Picnic Ham (8-10 lb.)
Stuffing (4 lb.)
Mashed Potato (4 lb.)
Gravy (2 lb.)
Pumpkin Pie (2)

made to move

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 282

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Small steps on climate change

For two years, the Danish capital of Copenhagen has been a beacon for environmentalists seeking a breakthrough international treaty on climate change. But with the long-awaited Copenhagen conference now just weeks away, it has become clear that the talks will not produce a grand, new accord mandating global reductions in carbon emissions. The United Nations' envoy conceded as much last week in Barcelona, the site of the last formal talks before Copenhagen.

According to some, the letdown can be explained in three words: the U.S. Senate. The United States is the only developed country that hasn't offered a carbon-reduction target. Though the House passed major climate-change legislation over the summer, the full Senate hasn't yet acted and almost certainly won't before the Copenhagen conference opens on Dec. 7. With reason, American negotiators are loath to agree to a binding commitment without Senate approval.

Blaming the Senate, or the United States, is unfair—and potentially self-defeating. Other governments are far from consonant on a range of issues, such as how to structure a regime for verifying countries' adherence to promised carbon reductions. And anti-American finger-pointing will only make it harder to extract the climate-change legislation from the Senate.

Even so, U.S. negotiators probably have to decide between two courses, neither of which will fully satisfy many of their counterparts.

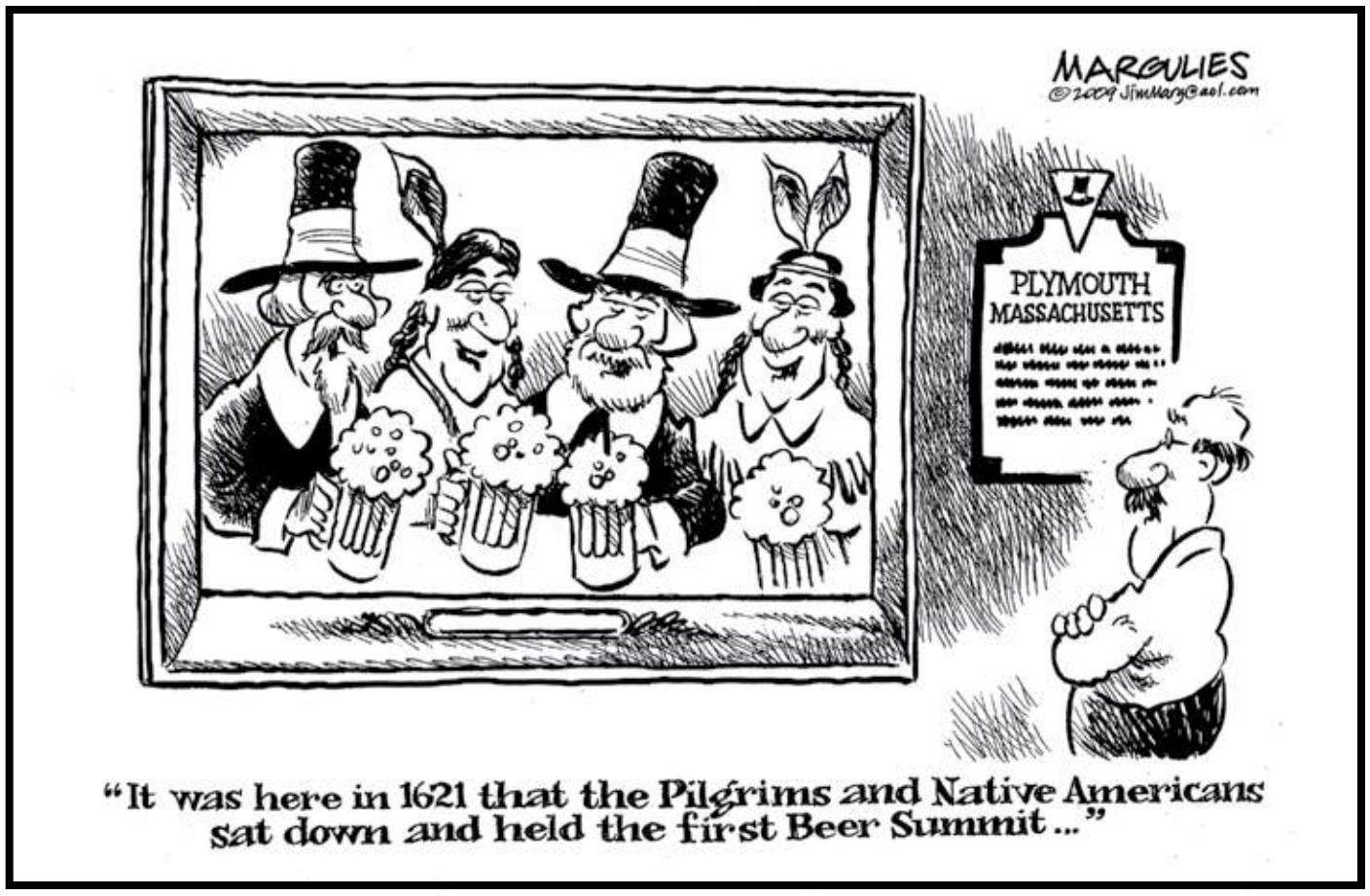
One option is to offer no firm emissions target at the conference. That could still allow for a modest political declaration by the 192 participating countries announcing agreement on certain details of a new climate treaty, while pushing off formal negotiations for perhaps another six months. Ideally, work would proceed on some sort of framework into which future national commitments carrying the approval of national legislatures could be entered. This risks deeply disappointing the rest of the world.

The alternative is for American negotiators to offer a provisional target for reducing greenhouse gases based on the work Congress completes before the conference. If developing nations are ready to deal, the result could be a nonbinding but substantive agreement. The work of setting up institutions to monitor emissions, provide financing to poor countries and transfer green technology could begin immediately.

Some observers worry this path will result in less international pressure to reach a legally obligatory agreement later on. But at least the parties' commitments would be credible, unlike those enshrined in the binding Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which countries flagrantly violated—and which the Senate refused to ratify.

There are good arguments for pursuing a big international agreement on climate change. Not least of them is that many countries' commitments are contingent on others taking similar actions. But even if negotiators eventually succeed in producing a binding treaty, the commitments to emissions cuts now on the table are probably inadequate to prevent an unacceptable rise in global temperatures over the next several decades. That's a problem the world will have to revisit, even if Copenhagen is a ringing success.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post


MARGULIES
©2009 JimMary@aol.com
PLYMOUTH
MASSACHUSETTS
"It was here in 1621 that the Pilgrims and Native Americans sat down and held the first Beer Summit..."

No doomsday on the Maya calendar

By MARY JO MCCONAHAY
Special to the Los Angeles Times

McConahay's Maya Roads, Travels Through Space and Time in the American Rainforest, *will be published in 2011.*

GUATEMALA CITY—The world may not end two years from now, despite Internet predictions and this week's blockbuster disaster movie, "2012."

On screen, the final day in the 5,126-year Maya calendar brings global destruction, and Los Angeles slides inexorably into the sea.

Here in the cradle of Maya civilization, however, shaman/priest Calixta Gabriel said Mother Earth—Madre Tierra—would suffer "hunger, wind and thunder," but rumors of her demise are greatly exaggerated.

This is relatively good news coming from an "ajq'ij," a "calendar keeper" or spiritual guide among the indigenous Maya people, whose traditions and astronomy-based cosmology originated more than 2,000 years ago. Maya today number about 7 million in Central America and Mexico. One million Maya live in the United States. Their Long Count calendar, which began Aug. 11, 3114 B.C., ends on A.D. Dec. 21, 2012.

During Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996, the Maya were suspected of supporting insurgents, and they were "disappeared" by the thousands. Their religion, which had survived the Spanish conquest with influences from Catholicism, was practiced discreetly, far from non-Maya eyes.

Gabriel, 52, fled into exile in California after death squads murdered three brothers in the 1980s, returning as the war ended to her "gift" as a shaman through study with elders.

Now some Maya priests have moved their rituals from caves and remote mountain locations to public areas, including temple ruins frequented by tourists. Calendar keepers perform ceremonies using fire, pine incense, colored candles, chocolate and other elements, petitioning for a community good, such as rain or protection. The religion matches certain days with certain spirits, and interpreting time and the calendar in daily life is the main responsibility of a Maya priest.

More than 1,000 years ago, astronomer priests determined Long Count dates of kingly reigns, inscribed on Maya monuments along with dates of royal births and deaths. Kings and queens had priestly duties by virtue of their position, and might sacrifice their own blood to communicate with the gods.

Today, believers ask the shaman/priests to determine the propitious day to marry or travel, or to bless efforts. The signing of the 1996 peace accords was preceded by a Maya ceremony at the ancient site of Kaminaljuyu in Guatemala City and public prayers at the National Palace.

For these purposes, Maya priests use a 260-day calendar called the "Short Count." The Long Count tracks Maya millenniums, centuries, years, months and days, starting with the supposed date of Maya creation and extending thousands of years into the future.

A third way of reckoning approximates the 365-day calendar.

Some Maya spiritual guides say they have been consulting among themselves on the significance of 2012, traveling informally by foot and bus, including to Mexico. (There is no pope or central doctrinal authority to whom ajq'ijab look for counsel, although some elders command particular respect.)

Some experts on the Maya believe Dec. 21, 2012, merits no great attention, pointing out that only one inconclusive mention of the date appears among thousands of deciphered Maya texts. It's simply the end of an era—of about 5,000 years—with another one beginning the next day.

"The scale of Maya time-reckoning dwarfs anything in our own cosmology by many orders of magnitude," wrote epigrapher David Stuart on his blog devoted to ancient Maya script.

Gabriel said she was cautious about magnifying the 2012 date's significance in a way that may be misunderstood.

"We do not want to commit the error that some Christians made at the turn of the millennium," she said, referencing much-hyped doomsday predictions about the year 2000, which passed quietly. Nevertheless, she said, we live in "a time of transition" between epochs, when men and women will realize—or not—how to pull back from "destroying" the Earth with pollution and by cutting down forests.

"Conditions could be severe," she said. "It depends on our answer. The universe responds according to the treatment it is given."

Another ajq'ij, Gregorio Chayax, 70, wears a baseball cap, T-shirt and pants rolled above rubber sandals. He serves as a spiritual guide among the towering temples of Tikal, the most visited Maya site in the Guatemalan Peten rain forest. (Tikal has a cameo in "2012.")

Chayax has already seen his familiar world disappear, well before 2012. He is one of only eight remaining speakers of Peten's once predominant Itza Maya tongue, according to the Guatemalan Academy of Maya Languages.

From 1991 to 2001, about 815,000 acres of protected Peten rain forest were lost to unlawful settlers, drug traffickers and cattle ranchers. Since then, the rate of loss has accelerated, according to Edin Lopez, technical director of the government's National Council of Protected Areas in Peten.

"We are not going to speak badly of cows," Chayax said. "But the ranchers have no heart."

Chayax suggested that a transition between eras, signaled by the end of the Long Count calendar, started more than 20 years ago and would continue for at least another 20.

"We are going to suffer more heat than now," he said. "We are out of balance. We have become excessive in what we demand."

Yet he said the actions of men and women might head off deterioration of life on Earth.

"Roots are still there, if we know how to find them, and make them live again," he said.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In memory of

My Fondest Wish

Today's departure from topics of business is in respectful and heartfelt tribute to those whose daily lives, future dreams, and escapes to paradise were recently marred by tragedy.

What words can I now share today
that others haven't said?
What food for thought is mine to give
on which you have not fed?

For if I had to choose one gift
to leave you with today
I'd wish my weekly words had strength
to help you in some way

I'd wish there was some magic dust
some spell that I could cast
to bring to life a deathbed hope
undo a pain-filled past
I'd wish that those who live in fear
would find their own brave heart
I'd wish that those who loved and lost
could just forget that part

I'd wish that those who shed their tears
for those whom they will miss
Will find the strength to carry on
and come to terms with this

I'd wish that those who yearn to climb
who stumble, fall and cry
when faced with mountains from now on
won't even ask how high

I'd wish that those who've lost the strength
to fight that inner fight
would find the will somewhere inside
to simply set things right

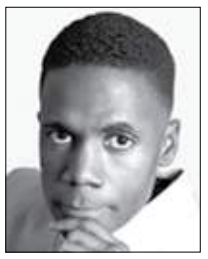
I'd wish that those whose pleas for help
seem oft to go unheeded
would find the ones whose need to give's
what makes them feel most needed

I'd wish that everyone could know
the pleasure of the day
that starts with a reminder
that you've made life your own way

Perhaps next week I'll find the words
to make that wish come true
Perhaps, till then, we'll all find ways
to help each other through

■ ■ ■

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT



Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies here on Saipan at Fu Dogs & Qi (pronounced chi), Saipan's only Asian Antiques Store, located on the first floor of the Nauru Building (the "360 building") in Susupe.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Ordinary people accomplishing the extraordinary

By CLARENCE E. HILL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

When then-Governor Ronald Reagan introduced returning POW John McCain at a speaking engagement in 1974, the future president asked, "Where do we find such men?"

He was speaking of many veterans, when he answered, "We find them in our streets, in the office, the shops and the working places of our country and on the farms."

In other words, President Reagan was referring to ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things. And it isn't just the men.

Army Spc. Monica Brown was still a teenager when she went on a routine patrol as a medic in Afghanistan in 2007. Caught under insurgent fire in Paktika Province, she and her platoon sergeant ran a few hundred yards toward a burning Humvee.

Dodging rounds by only inches, Brown helped pull injured soldiers from the vehicle and rendered life-saving first aid. For her actions, she was awarded a Silver Star, the nation's third highest combat decoration.

When she enlisted at age 17, the native of Lake Jackson, Texas, had hopes of becoming an X-ray technician, but the Army convinced her that being a medic would offer her the greatest opportunity to help her fellow soldiers. But to credit the Monica Browns and other brave heroes in our military with helping only their comrades is short-sighted. They are helping us. It is America, not America's military that al Qaeda and other terrorists have declared war on.

Fewer than 10 percent of Americans can claim the title "military veteran," and what a list of accomplishments can those 10 percent claim. From defeating Communism, Fascism and Imperialism, to keeping the peace during the Cold War and battling terrorism today, America owes a debt to her veterans that can never be fully repaid.

Historians have said that Dwight Eisenhower was prouder of being a soldier than he was of being the president. While relatively few veterans reach the rank of general, pride in ones' military service is a bond shared by nearly all who have served.

The pride is on display on every obituary page in the country, where military service – regardless of how many decades have passed and subsequent achievements reached—is mentioned with the death notice of nearly every deceased veteran.

Can any CEO or distinguished Ivy League graduate truly claim to have more responsibility than the 20-year-old squad leader walking a patrol in Afghanistan or Iraq? While the successful real estate mogul may have sold hundreds of homes and raised a wonderful family, what single accomplishment tops the decisive actions he took during the siege of Khe Sanh, which saved the lives of several of his fellow Marines?

As leader of the nation's largest veterans organization, it is my job to remember the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States military. The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion calls on us to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars." But those who have not served, in fact, all Americans, should honor the patriots who have.

The American Legion, www.legion.org, supports our heroes through programs such as Heroes to Hometowns, Operation Comfort Warriors and ready-to-assist service officers. We support the families of veterans through a Family Support Network, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund and Temporary Financial Assistance, just to name a few of our programs.

We call on all Americans to thank veterans and let them know that their sacrifices are appreciated. While veterans are often ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things, it is often an extraordinary family that supports the ordinary veteran. And it is the veterans that have given us this extraordinary country.

Clarence E. Hill, is national commander of the 2.5 million-member American Legion, www.legion.org, the nation's largest wartime veterans organization.

Letters to the Editor

The issue of Chamorro sovereignty

A hotly contested issue—debatable ad infinitum. But I do not present this letter as evidence of my personal feelings or any expertise on the issue or as a definitive treatise. It is solely for consideration by those who would profess on one side or the other of the issue. References used are not cited herein, but are many and available.

First, there are many factors to consider in establishing whether or not a sovereign entity exists. Among them is the basic notion of whether or not a "nation" exists. And above even that is what constitutes a "nation." Is it simply a group of people? Is it an occupied land area? Is it ethnicity? All are points that have been debated since the Roman Empire. But one must realize that the concept of sovereignty was not around until proposed by the Roman jurist Ulpian around 211 A.D.

Sovereignty now consists of the basic divisions of "de jure" and "de facto." De jure"or "legal" sovereignty is the theoretical right to exercise exclusive control over one's subjects. De facto, or actual, sovereignty is concerned with whether control in fact exists. This concept has two underlying definitions: 1) Does the governing power have sufficient strength (police, etc.) to compel its subjects to obey it? And 2) Are the subjects of the governing power in the habit of obeying it? Generally, sovereignty requires not only the legal right to exercise power, but also the actual exercise of the power. Neither the simple claim of or being proclaimed "sovereign" is sufficient; sovereignty requires both elements.

In order to decide whether or not an ancient group actually had a form of what we would today call sovereignty, two additional concepts must be applied: 1) internal sovereignty, which is the relationship between a sovereign power and its own subjects. Is it legitimate? By what right does a political body (or individual) exercise authority over its subjects: by the divine right of kings or by social contract (popular sovereignty) and 2) external sovereignty, which concerns the relationship between a sovereign power and other states. Thus, a popular definition of sovereignty comes from 1939 British jurisprudence: A government that exercises de facto administrative control over a country and is not subordinate to any other government in that country is a foreign sovereign state.

Thus sovereignty as a concept cannot be applied to the ancient Chamorro except in the modern view of ancient history—and retrospectively at best. To demonstrate, we must consider the type of society that existed in the earliest Chamorro settlements. Ancient Chamorro society was a "matrilineal avuncuclan" society. That is, typically the brother(s) of the female parent played more of a "father" role in family life than did the biological male parent. Further, each tribal unit existed unilaterally, without the recognition of "other" tribal units as having any particular superiority—over the land, a geographical area, or each other. Additionally, there was no recognized (or "unifying") king or head of state.

Sovereignty, in and of itself, was an unknown concept and tribal units as well as family units operated as cooperative groups of independent, and free, persons. There was no "nation" of united groups, either at the family or tribal levels. There were no known geographical boundaries of control other than the physical limitations of the sea itself.

One could maintain the argument that, by applying modern concepts, the ancient Chamoru occupying the islands of the Mariana archipelago comprised a "nation" of similar peoples without external controls by other peoples. But, as such, there would have to be some evidence that there was a far-reaching and controlling authority that united the various tribal units under an organized system of government. No such system has ever been evidenced within the tribal units of ancient Chamorro culture.

Therefore, it appears logical that sovereignty as applied to the ancients extended no further than ones' own family, and even then was a shared responsibility. The definition of sovereignty appears not to apply to the ancient Chamorro as a nation or even "group."

Groups claiming the right of self-determination today often establish sovereign states for themselves, thus creating "nation-states." An aspiring nation-state must have sovereignty recognized by other nation-states in order to become one. This has applicability to indigenous groups wishing some sort of external recognition. Groups of Native American Indians, Aleuts and Hawaiians have managed to accrue this form of recognized sovereignty within the sovereign rule of the United States similar to the rights of the 50 individual states; Indigenous Chamorro have not yet applied for this conceptual existence.

And a final note: An undersecretary of the Department of the Interior in the early '90s made the following statements while on Saipan: "Freedom to choose a political status carries with it the responsibility, first, to make an informed choice and second, to live with the benefits and responsibilities of that choice." Further: "for insular leaders to argue that what they freely chose 15 (sic) years ago is not what they thought they were choosing is a criticism of those who chose, not those who offered the choice. It is clear from the plain English of the historical documents involved that the United States has sovereignty in the Commonwealth—sovereignty is not conditional and does not lend itself to subject applicability."

Well, one thing is clear—it's not a clear-cut case. There will always be individuals (or groups) unwilling to recognize or follow historical events or the legitimately recognized pathways to their desires. Something else is absolutely clear: we are all children of our history, children of the Marianas, children of the earth—and as such we must, we are compelled, to recognize one another, our differences, our similarities, our history and to respect what each of us is as a human being. Our co-existence, our freedom, our livelihood depends on it.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

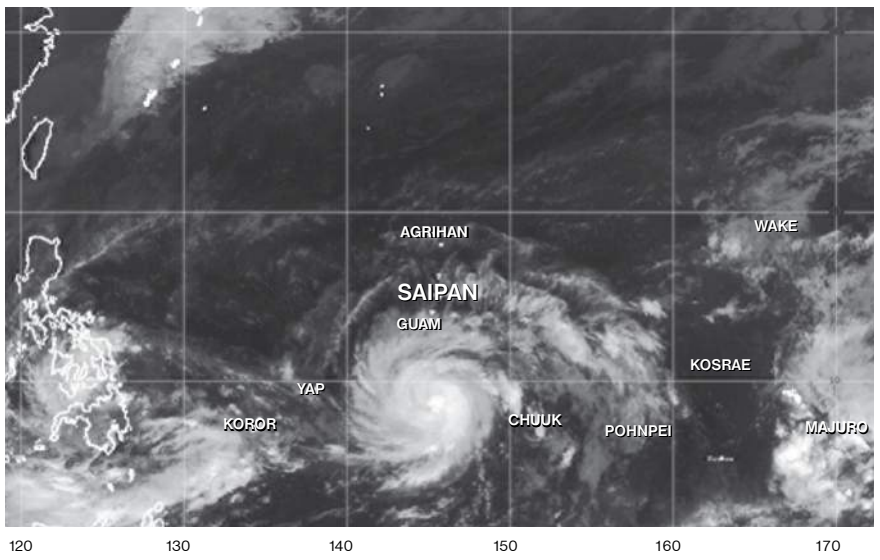
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼60
Beijing	Cloudy	▲41 ▼28
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77 ▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼72
London	Cloudy	▲52 ▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80 ▼52
Manila	Showers	▲85 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲81 ▼60
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼48
Osaka	Showers	▲63 ▼46
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲65 ▼47
Rome	Cloudy	▲64 ▼45
Salem	Cloudy	▲51 ▼37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66 ▼47
Seoul	Showers	▲50 ▼36
Tokyo	Rain	▲62 ▼46
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲57 ▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Nida (26W) is centered 315 miles south of Guam at 9N145E with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are within 100 miles of the center while scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 350 miles of the center. For more information on tropical storm Nida see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW and advisories issued by the national weather service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Low-level convergence is causing scattered showers east of Guam within 60 miles of a line from 13N152E to 12N155E and north of Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from11N157E to 9N160E. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 8N130E through tropical storm Nida to a weak circulation just north of Pohnpei at 9N158E then southeastward to end near EQ173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau are west of a line from 10N130E to 6N138Eto 3N130E and between the equator and 3N from 144E to 151E and and southeast of Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 167E to 170E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Marshal Islands in an area from 13N171E to 6N179E to 1N177E to 9N168E back to 13N171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:00 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:11 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
2:27 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:09 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:30 AM	
Thursday	1:05 AM	12:39 PM
Friday	2:41 AM	1:26 PM
Saturday	4:19 AM	2:15 PM
Sunday	5:00 AM	3:07 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Acclaimed ballet stars to perform in holiday special

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, in partnership with the Palms Resort Saipan, will be staging a holiday extravaganza that has never been seen before on Saipan.

This year's spectacular holiday performance is *Sleeping Beauty,* a classic ballet with music composed by Tchaikovsky and performed by world-class international ballet stars from Russia, Japan, and Korea.

Performances are scheduled for Dec. 4, 5, and 6, 2009 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), at the Theater Hall of the Palms Resort. Shows will start promptly every night at 7pm. The doors will open at 6:30pm. Tickets are available from parents of the school's 60-plus students who will have roles in the performances. Tickets are also on sale at all Shell gas stations and at the Shirley's Restaurant in Garapan.

"This year, we will have two evenings set aside as 'Ballet Nights for the Whole Family'—on both Friday and Sunday performances, Dec. 4 and 6," said Anna Glushko, founder of the local ballet school. "On Saturday evening, Dec. 5, we will have a 'Fundraising Ballet & Cocktail Show,' with raffle."

The two "Family Ballet Nights" will have two parts:

First is the staging of *Sleeping Beauty*, with the participation of 60 students from Glushko's Academy and the international star ballet professionals.

The second part will present only the international ballet stars. Tickets for these shows are very affordable at $15 for adults and $10 for children ages 3 - 12 years old.

For the "Fundraising Ballet Raffle & Cocktail Show" on Saturday, Dec. 5, the performers will just be the professional ballet stars from Russia, Japan, and Korea. Tickets for this show are $35 for adults and $15 per child, and will include one alcoholic or one non-alcoholic beverage of your choice.

The Academy is planning to have up to 10 international ballet professionals perform during each of the three nights of concerts at the Palms Resort.

"This year, we will have very famous Russian professionals Margarita Rudina and Alexey Nasadovich, who many will recognize as they also performed for us last year. They are currently working as ballet principals for the world-class Bratislava Ballet in the Slovak Republic," said Glushko. "Graciously and due to their love for Saipan, they have again agreed to fly over 10,000 miles just to perform for our Saipan community."

"We will also have a brother-and-sister performing team from Osaka, Japan: Asami and Keisuke Takai. They are currently working in the European capital of Dublin in the country of Ireland," she said.

The Takagi Ballet School from Tokyo, Japan will also send four dancers, while the No. 1 ballet academy in Korea, the Universal Ballet Academy, will present two of its best dancers to round out the international delegation of stars.

"The production costs to stage this event is quite high, in the tens of thousands of dollars. However, thanks to our parents, and the generous financial contribution from our kind sponsors, we are able to afford to stage (what would otherwise be unachievable) such an excellent professional performance for our small island community," said Glushko.

This year's sponsors include the Palms Resort, Delta Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Wells Fargo, Kendall-Jackson Wine Estate, Bank of Guam, First Hawaiian Bank, Burger & Comer PC CPA, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Shopping Center, Triple J Motors, ToothWorks, DFS Galleria, KZMI 103.9 My FM, and KSPN Channel 2 News.

"Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts wishes each sponsor our collective heartfelt thank you. Without you, none of these could have been possible," said Glushko.

For more information, call 483-6271 or e-mail: glushkosacademy@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian professionals Margarita Rudina and Alexey Nasadovich are ballet principals for the world-class Bratislava Ballet in the Slovak Republic. They will be visiting Saipan to perform here.

Addresses of CNMI's soldiers abroad needed

The American Red Cross, along with the Rotary Club and MCV, are helping coordinate the 2nd annual CNMI Homefront Support project.

Like last year, the program sends out holiday care package boxes to military service members from the CNMI. All branches of service, reservists and active duty are included.

The packages contain local cookies, dried mango, Spam, local newspapers/magazines, Red Cross supplies etc.

According to the CNMI office of Military Affairs, there are more than 300 soldiers currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who list the CNMI as home.

Families need to send their service members' mailing address to homefrontsupport@nmi.redcross.org or call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. All address information will be confidential and will not shared outside of the program.

"We'll be sending out the packages this Saturday, Nov. 28, from the Army Reserve Center. Please help us bring a little extra CNMI holiday cheer to the brave men and women of the U.S. military," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter. ***(ARC)***

Island Snapshots

COUNTDOWN

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Commonwealth Election Commission employee checks the remaining ballot boxes whose contents have yet to be manually counted by the board commissioners during Monday night to early Tuesday morning's counting of votes for the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election held Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Covenant Party's Alvaro Santos and Gregoria Fitial-Omar, and the Republican Party's Donna Flores and Juan S. Tenorio wait for the results of the manual counting of votes for the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election held Monday. The Commonwealth Election Commission counted the votes from Monday night to early Tuesday morning at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

NEW PROCESS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Manalo of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, under the Division of Community Programs & Services, speaks at a recent presentation to NMC staff and Human Resource managers of hotels throughout the CNMI. Participants were oriented on the changes made to the application process for student visas, which is now taken care of by the Department of Commerce. Changes are scheduled to take effect upon the implementation of federalization on Nov. 28.

COMFORT KITS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter donates comfort kits to the CHC Volunteers Association & DPH Social Services. The comfort kits will be given out to families in need at the hospital. Pictured from left to right are Kazumi Imai, Reiko Guerrero, Tina Snodgrass, Ann Benavente, JD Tenorio of the American Red Cross, and DPH nurse Frances Accab. For the past few years, the NMI Red Cross has donated these comfort kits to the CHC Gift Shop who in turn hand them out to those individuals who have either been admitted to the hospital or have family members admitted in the hospital.

MPC SUMMIT 2009

Maeda Pacific Corp. staff and personnel get together at the Coconut Restaurant in Garapan on Nov. 20, 2009, after attending the company's Summit 2009. MPC staff and engineers from Guam came to Saipan and visited some project sites and performed community service with their Saipan counterparts. The Guam delegation was headed by administrative manager Hironori Kikuchi, right, MPC president Tom Nielsen, second right, MPC general manager Miguel Rangel, third right, and Tsotumo Yamakawa, fourth, right. The visitors all stayed at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY CHRISTENING

Happy Christening to Danielle Louisa Duponcheel of Tinian, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Saturday, Nov. 21. She is shown here being carried by her dad, Lawrence Duponcheel. Others in the picture are, from left, godparents Tom and Erica Thornberg, Danielle's mother Carrie Kiyoshi, and Dolores, the celebrant's older sister.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings to Angel Lou Buensalido, who is celebrating her 4th birthday today with a party at the Rhatskie Restaurant in Garapan at 5:30pm! We love you so much and we wish you more birthdays to come! Greeting come from Mom, Dad, and your brother.

Belated happy birthday to our pimpin' girl Annie Cangco, who celebrated her birthday yesterday, Nov. 24, 2009! Wishing you all the best and many more in the years to come. May the Lord guide you always! Greetings from Jojo and Harl.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to JJ Reyes, who celebrated his 4th birthday on Nov. 21, 2009! May God bless you always! We love you! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Economic recovery likely not quite that 'energetic'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Remember the economy's return to growth last quarter? Well, it probably wasn't as energetic as first thought.

A government report due out Tuesday morning is expected to show that the economy expanded at a pace of 2.9 percent from July through September, according to Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. If they are right, it would mark a slower expansion than the 3.5 percent pace reported a month ago. Most of that rebound reflected federal support for spending on homes and cars.

The main forces behind the expected third-quarter downgrade: commercial construction was weaker, the nation's trade gap was more of a drag, businesses trimmed more of their stockpiles and consumers didn't spend as much.

So, the good news is the economy finally started to grow again, after a record four straight losing quarters. The bad news: The rebound, now and in the months ahead, probably will be lethargic.

Federal Reserve officials and other economists say growth won't be strong enough to quickly drive down the nation's unemployment rate. The nation's current 10.2 percent jobless rate marks only the second time in the post-World War II period that unemployment has topped 10 percent.

Obama: US economy has core strengths

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Monday the nation's economy is in good shape for the long term thanks to "core strengths" such as its universities, its innovation and a dynamic workforce.

But he also noted again how 2009 has been a sobering year for millions of newly unemployed people.

"We cannot sit back and be satisfied given the extraordinarily high unemployment levels that we've seen," Obama said in wrapping up a pre-Thanksgiving session with his Cabinet as other senior aides packed the meeting room. "We have only taken the first step in curing our economy."

The unemployment rate stands at a 26-year high of 10.2 percent, overshadowing more upbeat indicators such as a return in growth of the overall economy.

Obama told reporters that his Cabinet discussion included matters of national security and the upcoming budget, but the emphasis was on job creation. He recapped both his administration's efforts to help stabilize the financial sector and the web of challenges that have slowed an overall recovery.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia markets lower amid China warning to banks

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stock markets were mostly lower Tuesday despite gains on Wall Street as China's warning to banks to control lending dragged down financial stocks in Hong Kong. The region also got a poor cue from Japan, where stocks fell after the market was closed for a holiday Monday. The dollar was little changed against the euro and the yen. Gold retreated from a record and oil prices hung below $78. Investors shrugged off Wall Street ending a three-day losing streak Monday and figures showing that U.S. home sales rose 10 percent in October.

Oil hovers below $78 as traders eye dollar, demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil hovered below $78 a barrel Tuesday in Asia amid mixed signs about the global economy and crude demand. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 16 cents to $77.72 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 9 cents to settle at $77.56 on Monday. Investor optimism was buoyed by a report Monday from the National Association of Realtors that October home sales rose more than 10 percent, suggesting strength in the U.S. economy. But crude refiner Valero Energy said it shut down a plant last week because demand for oil products such as gasoline has been weak.

BoG opens Kosrae branch

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam opened its Kosrae branch last Oct. 30 at Unit 104, Kosrae Capital Building, Innem, Lelu, Kosrae, FSM 96944.

The new branch is headed by branch manager Mary Simmering, originally from Pohnpei. It is staffed by a team of six employees. In addition to a 24-hour ATM located outside the branch, bank hours will be from 9am to 3pm, Monday through Thursday and 9am to 5pm Friday.

The grand opening of the bank saw local and bank dignitaries grace the ribbon cutting ceremony.

They include Kosrae Catholic Church lay minister Geraldo Protacio, Bank of Guam board director Frances L.G. Borja, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, Tafunsak mayor Johnson Tauleng, Capital Building owner and landlord Mannix Cruz, 9th Kosrae State Legislature Speaker Sen. Lyndon H. Jackson, Kosrae Gov. Robert Weilbacher, and Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero.

Bank of Guam's Kosrae branch's telephone number is (691) 370-8858. Fax number is (691) 370-8522. Email may be sent to kosrae@bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kosrae Catholic Church lay minister Geraldo Protacio, Bank of Guam board director Frances L.G. Borja, Bank of Guam assistant vice president and Kosrae branch manager Mary Simmering, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, Tafunsak mayor Johnson Tauleng, Capital Building owner and landlord Mannix Cruz, 9th Kosrae State Legislature Speaker Sen. Lyndon H. Jackson, Kosrae Gov. Robert Weilbacher, and Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bank's newly opened Kosrae branch.

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR MANAGAHA

- Installation of an additional Reverse Osmosis Water Tank;
- Replacement of one 150 kva Diesel Engine Generator;
- Dock Fender Repair and Replacement;
- Electrical supply upgrade from generator to main panel, replacement of main panel, panel to kitchen and panel to reverse osmosis room.

Proposals must be submitted to Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc., Chalan Lau Lau, Beach Road, Saipan, MP 96950 • Attention: Mr. David Igitol

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/14 Sat	11/12 Thu	11/12 Thu	11/10 Tue	11/7 Sat	11/20 Fri	11/16 Mon	11/15 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/16 Mon	11/20 Fri	11/22 Sun	11/24 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	11/21 Sat	11/19 Thu	11/19 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/14 Sat	11/27 Fri	11/23 Mon	11/22 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/23 Mon	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue
MELL SENOKO	031E	11/28 Sat	11/26 Thu	11/26 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/21 Sat	12/4 Fri	11/30 Mon	11/29 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/30 Mon	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/5 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/3 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/28 Sat	12/11 Fri	12/7 Mon	12/6 Sun	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/7 Mon	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/12 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/10 Thu	12/8 Tue	12/5 Sat	12/18 Fri	12/14 Mon	12/13 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/14 Mon	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	12/22 Tue
MELL SENOKO	032E	12/19 Sat	12/17 Thu	12/17 Thu	12/15 Tue	12/12 Sat	12/25 Fri	12/21 Mon	12/20 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/21 Mon	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	12/29 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/28 Sat	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	SKIP	12/2 Wed	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	SKIP	12/11 Fri	12/12 Sat	12/17 Thu	1/5 Tue	12/20 Sun	12/16 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	12/5 Sat	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue	12/9 Wed	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Fri	12/19 Sat	12/24 Thu	1/12 Tue	12/27 Sun	12/23 Wed
MELL SENOKO	031E	12/12 Sat	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/16 Wed	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/26 Sat	12/31 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/3 Sun	12/30 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/19 Sat	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	11/22 Sun	12/23 Wed	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	SKIP	1/1 Fri	1/2 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/10 Sun	1/6 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/26 Sat	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	SKIP	12/30 Wed	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	SKIP	1/8 Fri	1/9 Sat	1/14 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/17 Sun	1/13 Wed
MELL SENOKO	032E	1/2 Sat	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/5 Mon	1/6 Wed	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/15 Fri	1/16 Sat	1/21 Thu	2/9 Tue	1/24 Sun	1/20 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

SC gov faces 37 charges he broke state ethics laws

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Gov. Mark Sanford is accused of breaking 37 ethics laws regarding campaign finances and travel, including using taxpayer money for high-priced airplane tickets that took him around the world and to Argentina for a rendezvous with the woman he once called his "soul mate." The governor's attorney said he looks forward to answering the "technical questions" regarding Sanford's travel and finances at a State Ethics Commission hearing early next year. Details of the civil charges were released Monday and carry a maximum $74,000 in fines. They came after a three-month investigation by the panel and could be pivotal in a push by some South Carolina lawmakers to remove the Republican governor from office before his second and final term expires in January 2011. The state attorney general is deciding whether Sanford would face any criminal charges.

Lawmaker defends RI Rep Kennedy in Communion flap

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A Pennsylvania lawmaker defended Rep. Patrick Kennedy on Monday against a bishop who has acknowledged asking the Rhode Island congressman not to receive Holy Communion because of his support for abortion rights. "We don't legislate at the orders of the Vatican, we legislate what is in our conscience and what we think is good for our country," said Rep. Patrick Murphy, a Democrat and Catholic who, like Kennedy, supports abortion rights. Murphy spoke at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., where he received a John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award from the late president's daughter, Caroline Kennedy. Patrick Kennedy is the nephew of John F. Kennedy, the first Roman Catholic elected president. He and Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, who oversees the most heavily Catholic state in the country, have clashed for weeks over health care reform and publicly financed abortion.

Schumer says failure not an option on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Failure is not an option on health care, a leading Democratic senator said Monday, even as Republicans turned up the heat on moderates who hold the fate of the legislation in their hands.

"We're not going to not pass a bill," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. With or without Republican support, Democrats will get it done, Schumer said, because a health care system that leaves nearly 50 million uninsured and spends more than any other is clearly broken.

Republicans wasted no time Monday going after Democratic moderates who delivered a Senate victory Saturday for President Barack Obama. The 60-39 vote overcame a procedural hurdle and allowed floor debate to start after Thanksgiving. Senate Democrats hope to finish their bill by Christmas, but it remains to be seen whether Obama gets final health care legislation this year.

A state Republican Party leader accused Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., of trying to have it both ways by talking conservative back home and voting with liberals in Washington.

"Nebraskans are finally wising up that there are two Ben Nelsons," said Nebraska GOP Chairman Mark Fahleson. "There's the Washington Ben Nelson ... who gave Democrats the vote they wanted.

Atty: Fort Hood suspect may use insanity defense

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—An Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people during an attack on his Texas post will likely plead not guilty to the charges against him and may use an insanity defense at his military trial, his attorney said Monday.

John Galligan, the civilian attorney for Maj. Nidal Hasan, said he is considering an insanity defense among other options, but that it's too early to determine his defense strategy.

"Based on the evidence thus far, his mental status must be raised," Galligan told The Associated Press by phone from his office near Fort Hood, about 130 miles southwest of Dallas. "Anybody who allegedly engages in conduct that is completely contradictory to his lifestyle and military career—an insanity defense has to be considered."

AP

This 2000 file picture provided by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences shows Nidal Malik Hasan when was a medical student at the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Hasan has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Nov. 5 shooting at Fort Hood, and military officials have said they may file more charges. More than two dozen others were wounded in the shooting spree, which happened at a building where soldiers finalize their wills and are medically screened before they are deployed.

Galligan said military law requires his client to plead not guilty if prosecutors seek the death penalty, but he said that decision has not been made.

Hasan remains in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital, where he was taken after being shot during the attack. At a hearing in his hospital room Saturday, Hasan was ordered to remain in custody until trial.

Hundreds mourn Mich. boy allegedly slain by father

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—An impromptu memorial of artificial flowers and dozens of stuffed animals remained Monday near strands of yellow crime-scene tape in a vacant lot where relatives say 15-year-old Jamar Pinkney Jr.'s father shot him in the head while he begged for mercy.

The lot is next to the two-story brick home where Jamar lived with his mother in the impoverished Detroit enclave of Highland Park, a once-prosperous city of 16,000, where decay, abandonment, fires and demolition have eaten away at the community.

Around the neighborhood, Jamar was remembered as a humble and generous boy who grew up tossing the football and worried about keeping his grades up. Since his death a week ago, friends, family and the community have struggled with making sense of his slaying and his father's arrest.

Relatives say Jamar's father, Jamar Pinkney Sr., was irate over allegations that his son had sexual contact with a 3-year-old girl and made him strip at gunpoint, marched him to the lot and shot him as he begged for his life. Prosecutors have charged him with first-degree murder and jailed him without bond.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-036

"DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WEBSITE FOR PSS CENTRAL OFFICE AND 20 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL SITES"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"Designing and Developing a Website for PSS Central Office and 20 Individual School Sites"**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Joe Torres, E-rate Coordinator via fax to 670.994-3791 or e-mail to joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp no later than December 12, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-036" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-037

"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System.** The Scope of Work and Proposal Package is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NM Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI.

There will be a Pre-proposal Meeting for Interested Proposers on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 9:30 AM. in the 3rd Floor Conference room in the NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Questions may be faxed to Joe Torres, PSS E-Rate Coordinator on 670.664.3791 or e-mailed to "joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp" **no later than December 11, 2009.**

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office **no later than December 18, 2009 at 10:00 AM.** Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

World

RP declares emergency after 24 killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo placed two southern provinces under a state of emergency Tuesday after gunmen killed at least 24 people in an attack on an election caravan.

The emergency measures, including checkpoints and random searches by authorities, will remain in place until the president is confident that law and order have been restored in the region, Arroyo spokesman Serge Remonde said.

"No one will be untouchable," he told reporters, as officials promised to make arrests in the country's worst election massacre.

Remonde called the killings "unconscionable."

Troops were finding a couple of bodies every hour or so, and officials were still trying to get the exact number of family members, political supporters and journalists who were intercepted by about 100 gunmen Monday and taken to a remote mountainous area, said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

"We're hopeful that some people escaped, and we're hoping to find them alive," he said.

Police said the convoy of about 40 people was going to register Ismael Mangudadatu, vice mayor of Buluan township, to run for provincial governor when they were stopped.

Soldiers and police later found 24 bodies, including those of Mangudadatu's wife, Genalyn, and his two sisters, sprawled on the ground or shot in their vehicles about three miles (five kilometers) from where they were ambushed, police spokesman Leonardo Espina said.

In this photo provided by ABS-CBN NEWS, bodies are seen sprawled on the ground at the site where gunmen ambushed a convoy of about 40 political supporters and journalists who were on their way to file election papers on Monday for Vice Mayor Ismael Mangudadatu of Buluan township, a candidate in a region of the Philippines notorious for violence between rival clans, in Ampatuan township, Maguindanao province in southern Philippines Tuesday Nov. 23, 2009.

AP

Israel, Hamas near swap of prisoners for soldier

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hamas leaders raced to Egypt on Monday amid signs of progress on a deal to swap hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for a captive Israeli soldier held by the Islamic militant group for more than three years.

The exchange could boost Hamas at the expense of its key rival, Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in part because one of the prisoners to be freed is Marwan Barghouti, his main challenger.

Officials on both sides cautioned against exaggerated optimism that a deal is about to be concluded. Even so, conditions for a deal appear to be ripening on both sides.

Israel and Hamas have been locked in on-again, off-again talks since Gaza militants tunneled into Israel and captured Sgt. Gilad Schalit in a 2006 raid that killed two other soldiers. Until recently, the Egyptian-mediated talks had made little progress.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is eager for a breakthrough. Bringing Schalit home would give him a huge domestic boost and provide an important diplomatic victory at a time when much of the international community is criticizing him for not doing enough to promote peace.

Inability to compromise may delay Iraqi election

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's parliament failed Monday to produce an election law acceptable to minority Sunni Arabs, prompting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to say that nationwide balloting scheduled for January "might slip" to a later date.

The United States has linked the pace of its military drawdown to the elections, though the top U.S. commander in Iraq has said the schedule is on track for now. U.S. combat troops are supposed to be out of Iraq by August, and the rest of the forces are scheduled to leave by the end of 2011.

The dispute over an elections law highlights the ethnic and sectarian divisions in Iraq. While more secure than in past years of war, the country has yet to achieve the political reconciliation vital to long-term stability.

Both Sunnis and Kurds have criticized earlier versions of the legislation. The parliament amended the law Monday with a version that pleased the Kurds but failed to appease Sunnis, triggering a likely second veto by the Sunni vice president and a delay in the elections.

Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, a Sunni, initially vetoed the law because he wanted more seats for Iraqis living abroad, most of whom are Sunnis. The minority, dominant under Saddam Hussein, has seen its privileged status evaporate since the ouster of the dictator and the election of a government led by the Shiite majority.

WORLD BRIEFS

China executes 2 for role in tainted milk scandal

BEIJING (AP)—China says it has executed two people for their roles in a tainted milk powder scandal in which at least six children died and more than 300,000 became sick. The official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that Zhang Yujun was executed for endangering public safety and Geng Jinping was executed for producing and selling toxic food. The scandal shocked China last year when children were given baby formula tainted with the industrial chemical melamine, which can cause kidney stones and kidney failure. Melamine, used in the manufacture of plastics and fertilizer, was added to watered-down milk to fool inspectors testing for protein, and to boost profits.

Trial of Khmer Rouge prison chief in final stage

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Prosecutors in the genocide trial of a former Khmer Rouge prison chief demanded a lengthy jail term Tuesday, calling him the personification of ruthless efficiency in the killing of thousands of Cambodian prisoners. Kaing Guek Eav commanded the notorious S-21 prison, where those accused of disloyalty to the xenophobic communist regime were held. He oversaw the torture and execution of about 16,000 men, women and children during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 rule. If the U.N.-assisted tribunal finds him guilty, the former schoolteacher faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. Cambodia has no death penalty.

Japanese engineer released by Yemeni tribesmen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—A Japanese engineer seized by Yemeni tribesmen seeking to swap him for a prisoner with al-Qaida links was released Monday after a week in captivity. Takeo Mashimo returned to the capital, San'a, after a day of negotiations between the tribesmen and Yemeni authorities, said Natahiro Yamaguchi, the Japanese Embassy's deputy chief of mission. Mashimo was in good health and was received by the Japanese ambassador and the governor of San'a, Yamaguchi said. In brief remarks Mashimo thanked the government's negotiating team and the tribesmen for letting him go.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MELINDA T. TAKAI,
Defendant.

Civil Action No. 09-0264-CV

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: **THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MELINDA T. TAKAI**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 5th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernardita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director will be committed and responsible for leading the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) within the strategic framework set by the NMASA Board of Directors, through the day-to-day management of NMASA, the development and implementation of initiatives in sport, and in identifying and responding to the challenges within the sports sector.

Key responsibilities include:
- Providing leadership in establishing and implementing national sport strategies to improve participation in organized sport, at the community level, by all the people of the Northern Marianas.
- Creating a successful ongoing Corporate Sponsorship, Marketing and Merchandising Program.
- Creating an effective fundraising program to ensure Team Marianas is fully represented at the Micronesian and Pacific (Mini) Games.
- Developing funding and capacity building partnerships for NMASA with international and regional sports agencies.
- Planning and Organizing the Marianas Games for 2010 and 2011, and working with the Marianas Games Council.
- Attracting international events to the Northern Marianas by working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and national sports federations.
- Organizing Team Marianas to achieve excellence in sports performance to its full potential.
- Developing NMASA and Team Marianas brands and managing an effective communications program for NMASA.
- Driving support for appropriate governance and strategic planning for national sporting federations.
- Providing leadership in developing partnership and capacity building with sports organizations and stakeholders in other sectors (such as health, education, and community services).
- Ensuring that all accountability, reporting and compliance requirements are met.

Suitable applicants with relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in sports management, management and / or business, demonstrated experience in planning, organizing and administration of sports and events, a strong marketing and communications background with the capacity to think and plan at the strategic level and act at the operational level, and demonstrated success with corporate sector fundraising with a proven commercial outlook will be given priority in the selection process.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of Northern Marianas sports, its challenges, and an understanding of its place in Northern Marianas society and culture, knowledge of the NMASA's and Government's objectives for sport and physical activity, and with proven experience in sports and related activities.

Applicants should exemplify personal drive, proactiveness and high energy, have the proven ability to shape strategic thinking and achieve results, demonstrate the ability to cultivate strong working relationships, and the ability to communicate, and have demonstrated success in achieving high level credibility with stakeholders and the ability to relate effectively to people at all levels.

An attractive package commensurate with the seniority of the role will be available to the successful candidate. However, it must be noted that the Executive Director will be directly involved in raising funds that support ongoing employment of the Executive Director.

Resumes with names and contact details of three (3) references, should be sent to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) no later than November 30th, 2009. Documents will not be returned.

By hand: Law Offices Michael A. White – 2nd Floor, Joeten Susupe Commercial Building
By mail: Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA)
P.O. Box 502476
Saipan MP 96950
By email: mwhite@saipan.com
Closing date: 30th November 2009

Campus Life

NMC Honor Society inducts new members

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Phi Theta Kappa Fall 2009 inductees, members, adviser, and keynote speaker following their recent induction ceremony.

The Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society celebrated the induction of eight new members into the Society on Saturday, Nov. 14. Families, friends, NMC faculty, Associated Students of NMC officers, and PTK members joined in the festivities at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret to honor the new inductees.

In order to qualify for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must distinguish themselves by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, in addition to finding time to serve and contribute to the Commonwealth through various community service and leadership activities.

The seven newest full members include students from the business and education majors: Kimberly Delos Reyes, Albert Indalecio, Min Sun Kim, Janel Pangelinan, Duane Sablan, Jeri May Tudela, and Victoria Tudela. Also welcomed into the chapter was one new provisional member: Victoria Aldan.

The induction ceremony was carried out by the current PTK officers: president Roxanne Ferrer, vice president Frances Santos-Hofschneider, recording secretary Patricia Matagolai, membership secretary Dyenina Diaz, and public relations secretary Stacey Demapan, and treasurer Mindy Park, and adviser Larry Lee. NMC faculty member Rik Villegas, a business instructor, gave an inspiring keynote address. The formal induction ceremony was followed by a buffet dinner.

An international organization, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence in two-year colleges since 1918. It is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in the 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold: (1) to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students; and (2) to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

A particular feature of PTK is community service. During this past year, PTK members have been actively involved in wiping out graffiti in the Commonwealth by painting over graffiti-laden bus stops in Fina Sisu and Chalan Kiya. In addition, the local chapter annually sponsors its Project Graduation: Feed a Body – Feed a Mind campaign during NMC's commencement week. Non-perishable food items and children's books are collected for distribution to charities. ***(PR)***

14 parents complete Motheread course

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents at the Garapan Head Start center, together with their children, families, and friends, gather on Oct. 31, 2009, for a Motheread/Fatheread course closing ceremony.

Two groups of parents at the Dandan and Garapan Head Start centers recently completed Motheread/Fatheread adult courses, capped by a short presentation that they performed at their respective centers.

Participants in the Motheread/Fatheread adult course sessions at Dandan Head Start Center decided as a group to hold the class sessions twice a week for four weeks. In doing so, class sessions that usually last eight weeks were completed within a month. The multicultural Motheread book collection that was used for the duration of the course were *The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Love You Forever, Anansi the Spider, Little Gorilla, Where the Wild Things Are, Grandfather's Journey,* and *Hush*.

CONTACT INFO

Tel: (670) 235-7319
Cell: 287-9416
E-mail: cnmimotheread@gmail.com

Participants in the Motheread/Fatheread adult course sessions at Dandan Head Start Center held a closing ceremony on Oct 29, 2009.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A set of the Eagle Book series—books that promote healthy living for diabetes prevention—was also given to each participant.

As part of their closing activity, the parent participants did a group read aloud to the audience at the center.

The class course was completed on Oct. 29, 2009, with four participants receiving their certificates of completion: Minerva Wabol-Mike, Roginia Banacia, Betty Koche, and Haydee Reyes.

On Oct. 30, 2009, 10 parents at the Garapan Head Start center, together with their children, families, and friends, gathered for a Motheread/Fatheread course closing ceremony. The parent participants role-played the storybook *The Three Billy Goat Gruffs* by Ellen Appleby. The participants changed the sound of their voices to mimic the characters of the storybook, and exaggerated their movements to make the presentation humorous and enjoyable for the audience. Participants at this site were Lori Giner, Joy Legaspi, Tisha Ferrer, Catherine Torres, Michelle Guiang, Emtaaz Chowdhury, Israt Chowdhury, Kamiz Ferdous, Regie Rivera, and Gemma Cadag.

In both completion ceremonies, Viola Deleon Guerrero, Motheread program coordinator, gave a short remark, praising the noteworthy participation and involvement of the parents in school activities and programs.

She also assisted Rhea Ayne Chong, the Motheread trainer for both course sessions, in presenting certificates to the participants. The participants were also given a tote bag, and three storybooks to complement their collections at home.

Successful completion of the trainings will not be possible without the full support of the CNMI Head Start Program, its staff, teachers, and administrators. The Head start program opens it's centers as a venue to hold the Motheread course training. In addition, staff and teachers are also close at hand to give support to the Motheread trainers. ***(PR)***

Grace Christian Academy students pose for a souvenir picture after participating in the PGFC tournament held Nov. 14, 2009, at the Kagman High School.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GCA'S PGFC WINNERS

Grace Christian Academy students outdid themselves in the latest PGFC tournament held Nov. 14, 2009, at the Kagman High School. The following are the participating students and their medal standings:

K-2 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation–A
Clark Birmingham- 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation–B
Robert Hanrey Schorr- 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Riley Anne Buenaventura- 1st Place
Heather Angel Pangilinan- 2nd Place
Clark Birmingham- 3rd Place
Amaris Birmingham- 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Matt Jason Moran- 1st Place
Tae Yong Kim- 2nd Place
Robert Hanrey Schorr- 3rd Place
Martin Angelo Pangilinan- 4th Place

Readers Forum– Masters A
Jim Michael Ham- 2nd Place

Readers Forum– Masters B
Matt Jason Moran- 1st Place
Martin Angelo Pangilinan- 2nd Place

Readers Forum– C
Francisco Patrick Aldan- 4th Place
Mary Abigail Marcelo- 5th Place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation–A
Yujin Lee- 1st Place
Alfie Madlambayan- 2nd Place

Choral Speaking A
5th Place
Eden Abigail Deang
Aileen Camille Dimaano
Jillian Cyril Salcedo
Tiffany Madlambayan

Choral Speaking B
5th Place
Cameron Boyer
Art Matthew Mamaril
Yasmin Angela Marcelo
Maia Magdalena Pangelinan
Catrina Jean Pantaleon

Humorous Interpretation– A
Rita Riona Laxamana- 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation– B
Alfie Madlambayan- 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking– A
Dianne Doris Arnold-1st Place
James Matthew Marasigan- 2nd Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung-3rd Place

Readers Forum– Masters– A
Seung Jae Kim- 1st Place
James Matthew Marasigan- 4th Place
Veeny France Revilla- 5th Place

Readers Forum– Masters– C
Yujin Lee- 1st Place
Yasmin Angela Marcelo- 2nd Place

Reader's Forum– A
Mycah Klerang Yobech- 2nd Place
Eden Abigail Deang- 4th Place

Reader's Forum– B
Justine Theola Calayo- 3rd Place

Reader's Forum– D
Pauline Xandra Castro- 5th Place

Teachers/Coaches
Melissa Harper, K4/5
Leah Garfil, 1st Grade
Kelly Dawe, 2nd Grade
Estrella Samonte, 3rd Grade
Maricel Hoffa, 4th Grade
Esther Manzano, 5th Grade

GCA PGFC Volunteer Judges
Parent Volunteer: Mirasol Dayao
NFL Student Judges: Cristine Cristobal, Kamille De Leon, Aslee Das, Brooke Sablan, Krisvel Eugenio, Maria Esmero, Darlene Barcelon

GCA PGFC Coordinator: Esther Manzano
Discipline Officer: Heather Linday
Principal: Marsha Owens

MATH CHAMPS

Grace Christian Academy students shine in the latest Math Court competition held Nov. 14, 2009, at Kagman High School. The following are the school's high-performing students during the competition:

JUNIOR HIGH DIVISION

Neil Conti, 3rd place Measurement & Geometry
Dong Ha Lee, 1st place Measurement & Geometry, 2nd place Data, Statistics & Probability
Katrina Punzalan, 2nd place Data, Statistics & Probability
Zuriel Chua, 2nd place Data, Statistics & Probability, 4th place Measurement & Geometry
Katrina Cruz, 2nd place Data, Statistics & Probability
Yong Jeong Kim, 2nd place Data, Statistics & Probability, 2nd place Measurement & Geometry

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

CJ Libut, 1st place Geometry
Sun Kyung Kim, 1st place Geometry, 2nd place Algebra 2
Jae Kwang Oh, 1st place Geometry
Eun Joo Kim, 2nd place Algebra 2, 2nd place Geometry
Da Bin No, 3rd place Geometry
Eun Jung Kim, 3rd place Algebra 2
Peter Cho, 3rd place Algebra 2
Maria Esmero, 3rd place Algebra 2, 5th place Geometry
Jo Hannah Cabrera, 5th place Algebra 2
Pauline Reyes, 5th place Geometry

Life & Style

Michael Jackson 'Opus' book offers rare image

NEW YORK (AP)—Artist Nate Giorgio recalls the last time he saw Michael Jackson, just days before the singer's death.

The pop icon wanted Giorgio to create dazzling murals of his children as well as artwork for his "This Is It" concerts, and Giorgio got out his pen during their talks.

"I was doing little drawings on the spot of him, and he loved it," says Giorgio of his black-and-white sketches. "He was great, he was really excited."

Those never-before seen sketches, as well as other rare artwork and photos of Jackson, are now part of a lavish new leather-bound book, "The Official Michael Jackson OPUS," out Dec. 7.

The book, the only publication officially sanctioned by Jackson's estate, not only contains unseen images of perhaps the world's most famous face, it also has essays about the superstar written by friends and those who worked with Jackson over the years, from Motown founder Berry Gordy and Paula Abdul to John Landis and David Blaine.

While many Jackson books have been printed since Jackson's June 25 death at age 50, Jeff Wald, president of OPUS Media Group, which published the book, says his stands out.

He and his team decided "this would not be a red carpet sound bite kind of a book," he says. "It wasn't about, 'Yeah, he's a great singer, a great dancer.' It was much more in depth about the human being that he was."

To that end, OPUS executive vice president Jordan Sommers elicited essays that weren't quite tributes, but personal reflections. Some talk about Jackson the jokester; others recall his artistic genius; still others reflect on his friendship.

"There's a lot of information from the book that comes directly from sources that will clear up a lot of misconceptions," he says. "There are stories told directly from the likes of Smokey Robinson (and others) that they've never told before."

The photos, some of which were provided by friends like Gordy, range from Jackson's childhood to his many transformations as an adult.

"Our mandate ... was to have most of the photos either not be seen ever before or never ever seen in the format in which they had been (shown)," says Wald.

There are also drawings of Jackson done by Giorgio and other artists. Giorgio says Jackson was a voracious art collector and was very specific about the kind of imagery he wanted of himself, jotting down instructions, some of which are included in the book.

While Wald talked about the book (which costs $249) benefiting the Jackson children and his mother, the Jackson family did not play any role in the creation of the 400-page, 26-pound book.

"We just decided this would be something apart from the family," Wald said. "It was about Michael... We really stayed narrowly to that."

Jackson's continuing appeal is highlighted by the success of the film "This Is It," which has become the all-time top-grossing music documentary, and the honors that still arrive, such as Jackson posthumously winning four American Music Awards on Sunday night.

Wald first met Jackson as a teen and stayed in touch with him throughout the years. Jackson reached out to him earlier this year because he was a fan of the OPUS books and wanted two done on him: one based on the "This is It" concerts and another chronicling his career.

Wald said Jackson, who at times had battled an addiction to prescription drugs, was lucid and energetic when they met for two hours at his home.

"He seemed clear eyed, not drugged... he was in great spirits," he says. "He was just happier than hell, he had a sense of humor about him... it was nothing like you hear on all those breathless reports on television."

Giorgio, who illustrated the book's cover sketch, recalls Jackson being anxious for him to start work on huge murals he planned to put in his Las Vegas residence: He wanted a painting of himself and his children walking through a forest.

LA *official negotiating over cost of Jackson's memorial*

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles official says she's negotiating with the company that owns Staples Center about reimbursing at least some of the $3.2 million taxpayers spent on the Michael Jackson memorial.

A City Council panel postponed Monday's cost review for a week after Councilwoman Jan Perry said she had positive discussions with AEG about the memorial at Staples in July.

AEG spokesman Michael Roth had no comment.

A recent city report concluded the memorial boosted the local economy and determined there was no law in place at the time to force reimbursement.

City Attorney Carmen Trutanich (Troo-TAN'-ich) has aggressively pursued repayment, prompting AEG's president to accuse him of bully tactics.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Randy Salas Gines

Born to life on August 23, 1956
Born to eternal life on November 18, 2009

Parents: †Juan Cabe Gines
†Rosa Salas Gines

Wife: Geraldine Iguel Gines

Parents in-law: †Manases Iguel
†Aurelia Ilo Iguel

Children: Melodina / Giovanni Rogolofoi & children
Johnny Taitano
Ricky Concepcion
Randy C. Nauta
Roseanne C. Nauta
Rochelle C. Nauta
Kay Ki'ilani Iguel Gines
Keoki Keoni Iguel Gines
Randy Jr. Iguel Gines

Rear Daughters: Lanietta Imma Rowan Itibus Olaitiman
Nylene Leischigharam Iguel Martin

Brothers & Sisters with Spouse:
†Annie S. Gines & children
†Johnny S. Giness
Thomas / Elsie Gines & children
George / Judy Gines & children
James S. Gines
Mary S. Gines & children

Brothers & Sisters in-Law with Spouse:
†Juan / Dolores Iguel & children
†Gregorio I. Iguel & children
†Antonio I. Iguel
Magdalena / Joaquin DL. Guerrero & children
Sylvestre / Escolastica Iguel & children
Estella / †Manuel Norita & children
Cynthia / †Ratao Martin & children
Isabel / Antonio Marlik & children
Anna / Alkantro Sarapio & children
Margarita I. Iguel & children
Francisco / Moreena Iguel & children
Henry / Elaine Iguel & children
Maria / Johnny Sam & children
Susana / Delvin Elieisar & son
Antonio / Janet Iguel & children

Nightly Rosary is being held at Tanapag Santa Remedios Church at 7:30 p.m.

On November 26 at 9:00 a.m. his remains will be out from CHC Morgue to CHC Chapel for viewing followed by a Mass at 11:00 a.m. Interment services will follow at Tanapag Cemetary.

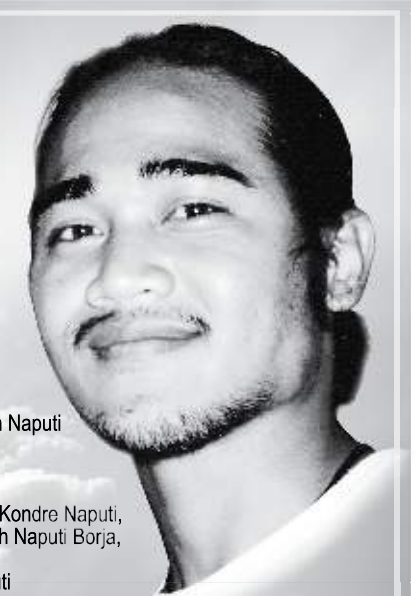
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

THE FAMILY

In Loving Memory of

RICHARD NAPUTI BORJA, JR.

August 16, 1987 - November 20, 2009



In his new life, he now joins his:
GRANDMOTHER: †Consolacion Hocog Naputi
UNCLE / AUNT: †Herman / Lydia Borja Palacios
†George Benavente
†Zelda Lynn Naputi Ayuyu
NIECES: †Jerika B. Aldan
†Joaquina Rosanna Borja Aldan

He is survived by his:
PARENTS: Ricardo Manglona Borja & Sara Elizabeth Naputi
SISTERS: Lorilyn Naputi Borja
Colleen Naputi Borja
Idalynn Naputi
NEPHEWS /NIECES: Matias Jesus Norja Bokuku, Richard Jay Kondre Naputi,
Lydia Lynn Borja Bokuku, Jonisha Jolanah Naputi Borja,
Jomeka Johleen Naputi Borja
GOD PARENTS: Agustine S. Naputi & Maria Duenas Naputi
GOD SON / DAUGHTER: Richard Jay Kondre Naputi Borja
Noreen U. Dafrow
GRANDPARENTS: Elias Manibusan Borja & Rosa Manglona Borja
Jesus Mulemar Mettao
Jesus A. Deleon Guerrero & Vicky T. Deleon Guerrero

UNCLES / AUNTIES:
Francisco Manglona Borja / Bernie San Nicolas (Tessalynn, Shawn, Bonnie, Frank Jr., Donna)
Antonio Manglona / Bernadine Borja (Anthony, Christine, Dennis)
Jose Manglona Borja (Jose Jr.,Olaitiman Borja/Michael Olaitiman , Cesily Borja)
Elias Manglona / Barbara Borja (Herbert, Kasey, Elias Jr.)
George Manglona Borja / Consolacion Aldan (Trent, Tania, Talisha)
Marcelino Manglona / Evelyn Borja (Elvin, Earl, Eron, Elani)
Lourdes Borja / Joaquin P. Aldan (Joann, Daris, Joaquin Jr., Jonathan, Janel)
Agnes Manglona Borja (Heinz, Kerry)
Anna Borja Sablan / Martin Benavente (Baron, Nadine)
Vicente / Lucia Borja Cruz (Melanie, Vicente Jr., Delby, Dennise)
Henry / Harriett Naputi (Darsky, Darr, Perissa, Darton, Naputi, Irvin, Okaruru)
George Naputi / Nora Mendiola (Connie Naputi / John Techur, Sean, Jesse Ryan Naputi, Michael Flores)
Michael Naputi / Eleanor Dela Cruz (Mirilynna, Miguel DLC Naputi, Michael Vincent Sanchez)
Larry / Mary Eyvonne Surigao (Metgot Larry, Tonyrose, Jarren Surigao)
Vincent Naputi Mettao / Diane Villegas (Vianny, Jerome, Consolacion V. Mettao)

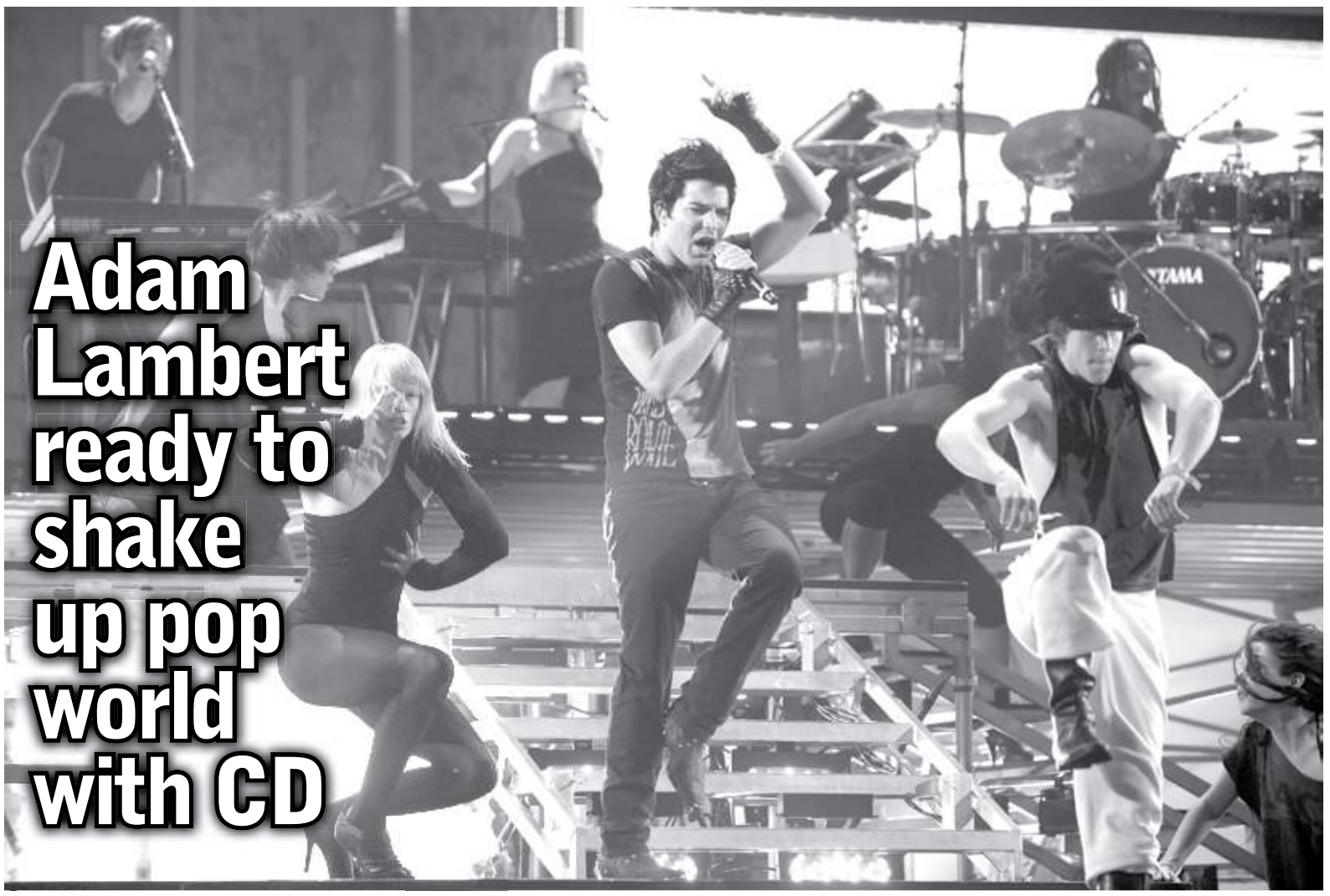
COUSINS:
Charlotte, Charlie, Chad, Charles
George Blas / Laura Ann Deleon Guerrero (Georalyn, Keoki, George Felix DLG Blas, Jr.)
Jesse T. Deleon Guerrero / Jony Savea (Jesselle, Kelome Deleon Guerrero)
William T. Deleon Guerrero / Krishna Piol (Jerishna, Kaelib Deleon Guerrero)
Leonard T. Deleon Guerrero / Primitiva B. Camacho

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended families and friend.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

THE FAMILY

Adam Lambert ready to shake up pop world with CD



AP

Adam Lambert, center, rehearses with dancers for his performance in Sunday's 2009 American Music Awards, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at Nokia Theater in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—During rehearsals for his outlandish American Music Awards performance, amid a thundercloud of throbbing theater lights and special-effects fog, Adam Lambert effortlessly governs the sprawling stage while gripping a microphone in his gloved hands and donning a tight T-shirt slathered with an image of David Bowie's face.

"Let's do it faster," the ebony-haired singer prods a choreographer.

"Tell them it should be really bright there," he later cues a technician.

"Turn that off," he barks mid-performance over a backing track at the sound engineer.

It was just seven months ago that the seemingly unstoppable 27-year-old glam rocker lost "American Idol" to nonchalant singer-songwriter Kris Allen on this very stage at the Nokia Theatre, but now it's Lambert's world—and we're just being entertained by it. With his glitzy rock godliness, Lambert has already eclipsed the talent contest's actual winner and has the potential to outshine all "Idols" before him.

When he begins performing "For Your Entertainment," the first single and title track from his album out Monday, Lambert's domination turns outrageous.

At one point, he thrusts a leather-clad male backup dancer's face toward his crotch, and later flashes a knowing smile as he strokes the same dancer's cheek after plowing through a door that swings both ways.

This is not your typical award show routine.

"There are a lot of double standards as far as that goes," the openly gay singer says backstage, a few days before his Sunday performance. "We've seen female pop and rock performers do that for the last 10 years. They've been very provocative, owning their power and sexuality. You just don't see men doing it very often. And I'm hoping to break down that double standard with this number."

While inside the "Idol" bubble, Lambert dodged the "he-is-isn't-he?" line of questioning, choosing to reveal all to Rolling Stone magazine after his narrow loss to Allen last May. Lambert believes the time is right for someone like him to be embraced in pop culture while simultaneously smashing established conventions.

Unlike his leashed back-up dancers ("I'm not into bondage," he says with a matter-of-fact smirk), Lambert insists he's no puppet, and is in control of his record deal with 19 Recordings and RCA Records. He had the artistic direction for his CD, the zany album cover (which features him with blue hair and even more guyliner than usual) to the songs.

"Contrary to certain opinions, the management team has been nothing but facilitating of my vision," Lambert claims. "It's not the other way around. I don't know why that impression was made. Creatively, I am in control of my situation. I feel like it is my responsibility to contribute actively, almost primarily, to this because I'm the artist at the center."

Lambert was embroiled in his first controversy last week when Out magazine editor Aaron Hicklin claimed that Lambert's management team only agreed to a cover shoot if it included a straight woman and didn't make Lambert look "too gay." Lambert shot back on Twitter that Hicklin should "refrain from projecting your publications' agenda onto my career."

"The whole debacle with Out magazine was really more of a miscommunication," Lambert says. "It was a request that I had made. I said I didn't feel comfortable talking about certain civil rights and political issues because I'm not a politician. I'm an entertainer. I had actually asked about the content and what the interviewer was going to ask me."

Lambert is navigating unknown territory. No former "Idol" contestant has ever been so loud and proud from the outset. Lambert, a San Diego native who performed in theatrical productions like "Hair" and "Wicked" before auditioning for "Idol," has not lacked attention since narrowly losing the competition's crown.

Lambert raised eyebrows with a saucy Details magazine photo shoot featuring the singer intertwined with a nude woman. Hicklin attacked the spread as awkward, but Lambert contends he was exploring heteroerotism much like many female artists experiment with homoerotocism. Such exposure begs the question: Will all this risque business be risky business?

"You want edge," says RCA Records general manager Tom Corson. "You want an artist who is going to challenge himself as well as his fans and people who may become his fans. You've got to hand it to him, so far it's working for him, but it's got to come down to the music. There's plenty of people who have celebrity but don't have a tenth of the talent of Adam."

Lambert's album is an assemblage of songs Lambert quickly crafted this summer while on tour with his eighth-season "Idol" brothers and sisters. His collaborators include "Idol" judge Kara DioGuardi on the pumping rock tune "Strut," Lady Gaga on the synth ditty "Fever" and Pink on the power ballad "Whataya Want From Me?"—the next single from his album.

There's no question Lambert has star power, but so far, his celebrity hasn't ensured a hit: the first single, "For Your Entertainment," has debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 chart weakly at No. 84. Controversy—and becoming a Twitter trending topic after his American Music Awards performance—may help sales.

"People were really drawn to him from everything he was doing on the show," says Sharon Dastur, program director at pop radio station Z100 in New York. "Now that it's time for him to be on his own and put out his own music, it's a question of whether he's stepping up to the plate. I definitely think 'Whataya Want From Me?' is a great way to start."

Lambert is full of over-the-top contradictions, and that may be part of his appeal. He's a punk rocker who's not angry at the world. He's gay, but many of his straight female fans readily admit to lusting after him. He doesn't want to be taken seriously, and he wants to be taken seriously. He is playing the part of a character all while being himself.

"If you're a new artist breaking, you have more control over your first impression," he says. "Because of everything I've been through, everything I did on 'Idol' and all of the press attention, it's easy to catch people off-guard by whatever choices I make. They have a preconceived notion. It creates a challenge, but it's one that I'm kind of enjoying."

'New Moon' wolfs down $140.7M in opening weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Twilight Saga: New Moon" gobbled up $140.7 million the first three days the vampire romance was in theaters, while gaining $258.8 million worldwide, according to studio estimates.

"New Moon" placed third on the all-time domestic U.S. chart behind last year's $158.4 million opening weekend for the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight" and 2007's $151.1 million haul for "Spider-Man 3."

Among the top-10 all-time openings, "New Moon" is the only one that came outside of Hollywood's busiest time, the summer season. The movie adaptation of Meyer's next "Twilight" chapter, "Eclipse," arrives in the heart of summer, next June 30.

The No. 1 domestic debut for Summit Entertainment's "New Moon" was more than twice the $69.6 million haul over the same weekend last year for "Twilight," the first in the franchise based on Stephenie Meyer's novels.

"Obviously, with the success of 'Twilight' itself, sequels being what they are will generate X-number of dollars more, particularly if it's a satisfying sequel," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Summit.

On Friday, "New Moon" set an all-time domestic high for opening day with $72.7 million, topping the previous record of $67.2 million by last year's "The Dark Knight.

Overall, Hollywood had its second-biggest non-holiday weekend ever, with final numbers expected to come in slightly behind the $260 million the industry rang up over the weekend of July 18, 2008, when "The Dark Knight" opened.

Compared to the same weekend last year, business was up 59 percent.

"New Moon" continues the story of teen romance between a school girl and a vampire (Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson), with the sequel adding a love triangle with a werewolf (Taylor Lautner).

1. "**The Twilight Saga: New Moon**," $140.7 million.
2. "**The Blind Side**," $34.5 million.
3. "**2012**," $26.5 million.
4. "**Planet 51**," $12.6 million.
5. "**Disney's A Christmas Carol**," $12.2 million.
6. "**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire**," $11 million.
7. "**The Men Who Stare at Goats**," $2.8 million.
8. "**Couples Retreat**," $2 million.
9. "**The Fourth Kind**," $1.7 million.
10. "**Law Abiding Citizen**," $1.6 million.

Opening at No. 2 domestically this weekend was the Warner Bros. football drama "The Blind Side" with $34.5 million. The film stars Sandra Bullock in the real-life story of Baltimore Ravens football player Michael Oher, who was a homeless teen taken in by a wealthy family and enrolled in private school.

The previous weekend's top movie, Sony's disaster tale "2012," slipped to third-place with $26.5 million, raising its domestic total to $108.2 million. Worldwide, "2012" has taken in $449.8 million.

In limited release, Penelope Cruz and director Pedro Almodovar's latest collaboration, "Broken Embraces," opened big with $107,597 in two theaters for a $53,799 average. The Sony Pictures Classics romantic drama centers on a blind screenwriter relating the story of a lost love.

Nicolas Cage and director Werner Herzog's dark crime thriller "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans" opened with $257,267 in 27 theaters, averaging $9,528 a cinema. Released by First Look Studios, "Bad Lieutenant" is the story of a drug-crazed cop on a manic murder investigation.

The huge spike in business this weekend sets the stage for big crowds over the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday that begins Thursday, one of the busiest periods of the year at theaters.

Along with "New Moon" and other holdover movies such as Jim Carrey's holiday-themed "A Christmas Carol," new releases for Thanksgiving include the Robin Williams-John Travolta comedy "Old Dogs" and the post-apocalypse drama "The Road."

After a strong run in limited release, George Clooney's animated comedy "Fantastic Mr. Fox" expands into nationwide release the day before Thanksgiving.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Attorney: Gosselin divorce could be finalized soon

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jon Gosselin offered his estranged wife a bouquet of red roses at their divorce arbitration hearing over the weekend. She evidently turned them down. Despite the snub, the marathon session went so well that the feuding stars of "Jon & Kate Plus Eight" could be divorced by the end of the year, his attorney said Monday.

"Although there were many emotional moments throughout the process, Jon impressively put the best interests of his children above all and was extremely appropriate in his approach to the mediation," Mark Heller said. "As a result of that, it came to a successful resolution."

The couple met for more than six hours Saturday at a law office in the Philadelphia suburbs to discuss unresolved issues, including custody of their eight children and the distribution of marital property. Heller said a second day of arbitration planned for Monday is no longer needed. He said an arbitrator will rule by Christmas and that the divorce could be finalized by the close of 2009.

Heller declined to comment on the terms of the divorce.

As for the roses?

Heller said his client brought them "as a peace offering to try to melt down the freeze that he perceives to be coming from the other side."

Kate Gosselin's attorney had no immediate comment Monday.

The popular TLC series ends its run Monday night. It won a devoted following with its heartwarming look at the lives of a Pennsylvania couple raising twins and sextuplets. But the show fell apart after the Gosselins announced their split in June, and the couple's acrimonious divorce has made them tabloid fixtures.

Mya is 3 points from perfect

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mya is poised to take the "Dancing With the Stars" title after finishing three points away from perfect during the final night of competition Monday.

She made it clear that she intends to claim the show's mirrorball trophy.

"I haven't worked this hard for this long not to win this thing," she said Monday. "That trophy is mine."

The singer scored 87 out of 90 points for her three dances with professional partner Dmitry Chaplin. The pair was perfect on their paso doble and bested their fellow finalists with a perfect score during the megamix challenge, which saw them dancing side-by-side with Donny Osmond and Kelly Osbourne. Mya's "Hairspray"-themed freestyle dance didn't dazzle the judges, who gave it 27 out of 30 points.

"I was expecting something a little bit more spectacular," judge Bruno Tonioli said.

Osmond finished in second place with 85 out of 90 points. He and professional partner Kym Johnson earned a perfect score of 30 for their Broadway-inspired freestyle routine, which head judge Len Goodman called "an absolute show-stopper." The couple collected 27 points for their cha-cha and 28 during the megamix challenge.

AP

This Nov. 17, 2009 photo provided by ABC shows Mya and Dmitry Chaplin on "Dancing with the Stars" in Los Angeles.

McKellen, Weisz win at London theater awards

LONDON (AP)—Rachel Weisz took top acting honors and Ian McKellen was recognized for a half-century in the theater Monday at London's Evening Standard Theater Awards.

Weisz won the acting prize for playing faded southern belle Blanche Dubois in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." The prize was renamed the Natasha Richardson Best Actress Award this year in honor of the actress who died in March after a skiing accident in Quebec.

The award was presented by Richardson's mother, Vanessa Redgrave.

Weisz, who won a supporting-actress Academy Award for "The Constant Gardener," said it was an honor to receive a prize named for "the great and much, much-loved Natasha Richardson."

She spoke from Romania, where she is filming Bosnia-set drama "The Whistlebower."

McKellen received a special award for his outstanding contribution to British theater.

Overnight star Susan Boyle focus of TV special

NEW YORK (AP)—TV Guide Channel says it will air a special program starring Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle next month.

The one-hour documentary, "I Dreamed a Dream: The Susan Boyle Story," will feature performances by Boyle, plus interviews with her as well as friends and celebrities including Simon Cowell, a producer of the special.

It was last January that the shy, dowdy 47-year-old Boyle stepped on stage to audition for "Britain's Got Talent." She electrified the judges and everyone else in earshot with her soaring rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream."

AP

Susan Boyle reacts to the audience during her performance on the NBC "Today" television program in New York Monday, Nov. 23, 2009.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

AP source: Palin book sells big in first week

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin appears well on her way to becoming a million-selling author. "Going Rogue" sold 700,000 copies—a number that includes pre-orders—in its first week of release, according to a publishing official close to the former Alaska governor. The official was not authorized to release the sales figure and asked not to be identified. Palin's memoir came out Nov. 17 with a first printing of 1.5 million copies. On Friday, publisher HarperCollins announced that the printing would be increased to 2.5 million. Few nonfiction books have debuted so well. In 2004, Bill Clinton's "My Life" sold more than 900,000 copies in its first week.

Chief guilty of 3 counts in Parker-Broderick case

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—An eastern Ohio police chief was convicted of three felonies Monday but was acquitted of burglary charges in an alleged break-in at the home of a woman who carried twin girls for Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick. A jury found suspended Martins Ferry Chief Barry Carpenter guilty of receiving stolen property, theft in office and tampering with evidence. He was acquitted on charges of burglary and unauthorized used of property or services. Carpenter put his head in his hands after the verdict was read in Belmont County court.

Little Richard asks fans for prayers after surgery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Little Richard is asking fans to pray for his speedy recovery after undergoing hip surgery at a Tennessee hospital. The Rev. Bill Minson, a family friend, says the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer had been in some pain leading up to the surgery but continued to maintain a rigorous performing schedule. Minson says the 76-year-old asked him to tell fans "to get ready to rock 'n' roll with him in the new year because he's coming back strong." The Macon, Ga., native now lives in Tennessee. He is recovering at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Schwarzenegger caught parking Porsche in red zone

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Just weeks after California first lady Maria Shriver apologized for parking in a red zone, her husband appears to have violated the same law. The Web site TMZ.com on Monday posted photographs of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger getting into a silver convertible Porsche in a red zone, where no stopping, standing or parking is allowed. The celebrity site says the violation occurred Saturday in Beverly Hills. The city typically issues a $90 citation to red zone violators. Schwarzenegger's spokesman, Aaron McLear, declined to comment. The governor apparently didn't learn from his wife's mistake. Last month, Shriver was caught on video parking her Cadillac Escalade in a red zone in Santa Monica.

Winfrey to interview widow of Ted Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP)—Another interview coup for Oprah Winfrey: Vicki Kennedy, wife of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. In her first interview since her husband's death, Vicki Kennedy will appear on Winfrey's television talk show Wednesday, along with her stepson, Ted Kennedy Jr., and her two children from a previous marriage, Caroline and Curran. Sen. Kennedy died in August at age 77, just weeks before the release of his memoir, "True Compass." Winfrey, who announced last Friday she would end her program in 2011, recently had the first interview with Sarah Palin as the former Alaska governor promoted her memoir, "Going Rogue."

Wife can't convince husband to tighten his loose lips

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our family has had a difficult year. We have gone from one drama or trauma to another, but have always managed. There's one issue, however, that I can't fix. My husband, "Arthur," can't keep our problems private. He seems compelled to tell EVERYONE he meets about what's going on in our family.

I have told Arthur repeatedly, "What happens at home should stay at home," and begged him not to take our problems to the neighbors, who have enough of their own. It's embarrassing when our friends, neighbors and extended family are informed about the dramas going on in our home. But Arthur becomes defensive when I tell him I don't like it and says he won't stop—that I'm being "too sensitive."

Abby, I feel my husband's blabbing is disloyal. I'm worried that he is ruining our reputation because he can't keep his mouth shut. Please help.

TOWN CRIER'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Your husband may be looking for attention or sympathy. He also appears to lack good judgment and impulse control, and does not understand what consequences his "blabbing" might bring.

However, I can't muzzle him and neither can you. It may bring small comfort to remember that these days people are so preoccupied with their own problems they are likely to be less judgmental about your drama and trauma.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother finishing my undergraduate degree in English. I have a 6-year-old son. His father, "Gil," and I are on great terms. We kept everything out of the courts, and he pays me monthly child support. Gil sees our son whenever he likes, which is often.

I have an opportunity to go to law school 200 miles away, and I'm considering leaving my son with his dad to do so. I have no problem taking him with me, but as parents we thought that uprooting our son for three years was not a good idea.

I am doing this for my son. I come from a poor family, and I am the first to graduate from college. A liberal arts degree won't afford me much in the future. Gil's income is "fair," but neither of us has any real security.

I trust Gil when he gives me his word on an agreement. Many of my friends are supportive, but some of the stay-at-home moms are making me feel like a terrible person and mother. Would I be selfish to do this or should I continue with my plans for a better income and career?

GNAWING UNCERTAINTY IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Stop listening to the criticism and proceed with ensuring a bright future for you and your boy. As long as you can spend time with your son during school breaks and during the summer months, I see no reason why you should not get your law degree. But there should be a clear written agreement between you and Gil that the arrangement is only temporary, and it's important your son understand that your absence is not because he has done anything to cause it.

■ ■ ■

And now, Dear Readers, I am pleased to continue the tradition of offering the Thanksgiving Prayer that was penned by my dear mother, Pauline Phillips. No Thanksgiving would be complete for me without it.

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.
Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Love, ABBY

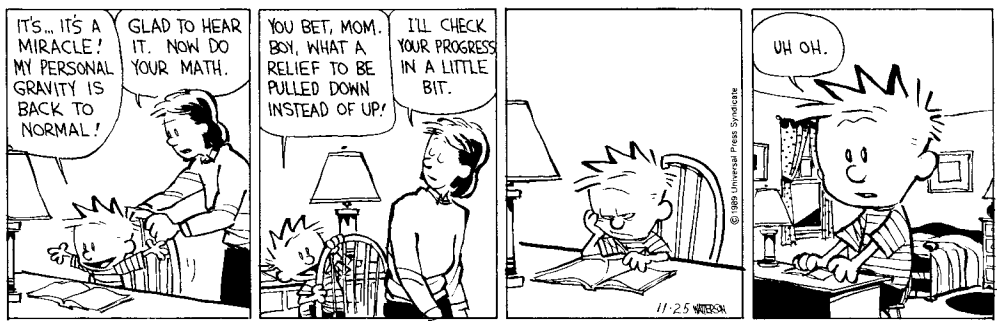
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

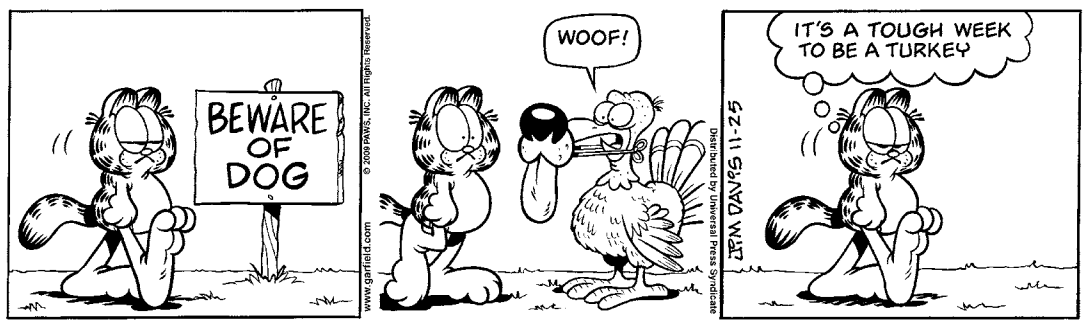
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IT'S... IT'S A MIRACLE! MY PERSONAL GRAVITY IS BACK TO NORMAL!
GLAD TO HEAR IT. NOW DO YOUR MATH.
YOU BET, MOM. BOY, WHAT A RELIEF TO BE PULLED DOWN INSTEAD OF UP!
I'LL CHECK YOUR PROGRESS IN A LITTLE BIT.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
11-25 WATTERSON
UH OH.

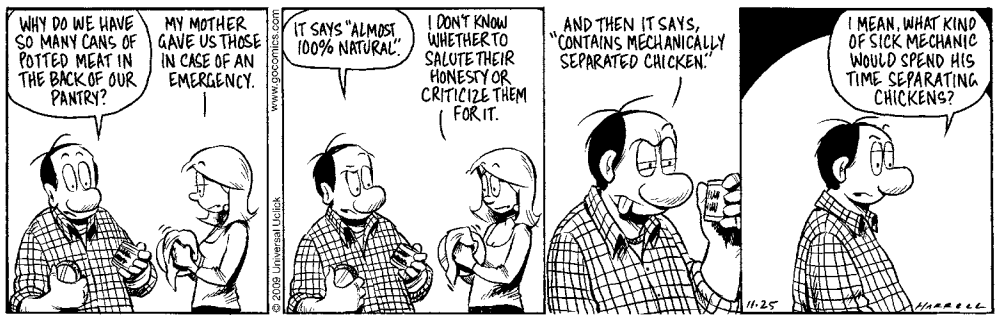
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


BEWARE OF DOG
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
WOOF!
IT'S A TOUGH WEEK TO BE A TURKEY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 11-25

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHY DO WE HAVE SO MANY CANS OF POTTED MEAT IN THE BACK OF OUR PANTRY?
MY MOTHER GAVE US THOSE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Universal Uclick
IT SAYS "ALMOST 100% NATURAL".
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO SALUTE THEIR HONESTY OR CRITICIZE THEM FOR IT.
AND THEN IT SAYS, "CONTAINS MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN."
I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF SICK MECHANIC WOULD SPEND HIS TIME SEPARATING CHICKENS?
11-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THAT! GET AWAY FROM THERE!
HOLD ON! HE'S GOING FOR A TWENTY-POUNDER!
11-25 www.gocomics.com
THIS COULD BE A NEW RECORD!
I DON'T CARE! THIS IS A GROCERY STORE! NOT A CASINO! I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU GUYS AGAIN!
YETH!!
NO BOBBING FOR BUTTERBALLS!
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
SALE

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pal in the 'hood
4 Actress Jessica
8 Dog owner's ordeal
12 Once around the track
13 Italy's silhouette
14 Pelvic bones
15 In vitro items
16 Cousin of the ibis
18 Yo-Yo Ma's strings
20 — de mer
21 Killer whale
24 Linguini sauce
28 Keep growing rapidly
32 Go with the eagles
33 Intention
34 Hairnet
36 "Mamma —!"
37 Slender
39 Where to "think outside the bun"
41 Bristles, biologically
43 Sullen
44 Meadow
46 Judge's prop
50 Letter from the Vatican
55 Ram's mate
56 Newspaper page
57 Furniture store name
58 Afternoon affair
59 Moist in the morn
60 Links supply
61 Mork's home planet

DOWN

1 United nations
2 Carry on
3 October birthstone
4 Soaks up
5 Prune
6 Greet the villain
7 Fermi's tidbit
8 Cross references?
9 "The Greatest"
10 Up to, in verse
11 Actor Holbrook
17 Siesta
19 Despondent
22 Lacks the ability
23 "Get — of this!"
25 A handful
26 Do surveillance on
27 Exam format
28 Back talk
29 Cleo's water
30 Leave out
31 Crazy
35 Gen. MacArthur
38 Ailment
40 Underwear with underwire
42 Slithery fish
45 Slightly
47 Presidential power
48 Basin accessory
49 Security problem
50 Spacecraft compartment
51 Mimic
52 Church seat
53 Guitar's kin
54 Shelter

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	L	A	T	■	C	A	P	S	■	H	E	M
C	O	L	A	■	A	G	U	E	■	O	V	A
C	U	B	B	Y	H	O	L	E	■	B	I	T
■	■	■	K	I	N	G	■	S	A	B	L	E
O	F	T	E	N	■	■	C	A	R	Y	■	■
D	R	A	Y	■	B	R	O	W	S	I	N	G
D	A	B	■	B	E	A	D	S	■	S	E	A
S	U	B	P	O	E	N	A	■	S	T	A	R
■	■	■	Y	O	U	R	■	■	D	U	S	T	Y
P	A	C	E	R	■	C	A	R	P	■	■	■
E	T	A	■	B	O	B	B	Y	P	I	N	S
P	O	T	■	O	R	E	L	■	L	O	O	K
E	M	S	■	N	A	R	Y	■	E	N	V	Y

Yesterday's answer 11-25

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57					58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donovan McNabb, 33; Christina Applegate, 38; Amy Grant, 49; John Larroquette, 62

Happy Birthday: There is much to learn and to experience ahead of you. It is a time of change that must be faced, endured and put to rest if you want to move forward in a positive manner. Open your heart and your head to the possibilities and you will not be led down the wrong path. It's up to you. Your numbers are 3, 14, 20, 23, 34, 39, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will finally fall heir to information that clears up a matter you've been concerned about for some time. A professional change may be in order. Don't let your past cause trouble for you. An old love should be left alone. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be erratic when dealing with people you need on your team. Stay calm. Do your homework and you will not be left in a vulnerable position. A change in your personal life will help you find happiness and success. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Versatility is one thing but changing your mind mid-stream when it affects others will turn into a problem. Be consistent if you want to gain the confidence of people who can make a difference to your future prospects. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You've got plenty to be thankful for and to look forward to if you can see beyond all the negativity and clutter in your life. You can make the changes that will lead to a better environment. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can't buy love or happiness but you can go into debt trying to do so. Smarten up and spend money on something worthwhile. Be careful where you leave your wallet; loss is apparent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Try to curb your generosity and replace it with a kind word or moral support. Someone's emotional ups and downs will get you thinking about your own well-being and what you can do to protect your own interests. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will face problems if you are dealing with home repairs or contractors. Try to do a lot of the work yourself. You can make a difference to a group you appreciate and you will achieve great satisfaction. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid being sucked in to someone's emotional turmoil. Meddling will lead to complaints and being criticized for something you did unintentionally. Living a lie is not your style nor will it satisfy you long-term. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be fooled by someone's insincere emotional plea to help. Getting involved with people who don't share the same value system won't work. Keep a watchful eye and an open mind. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You know what you have to do, so stop sitting and waiting. Taking immediate action will put everyone else at ease, knowing that they are in good hands. You will be offered an interesting task with lots of potential for advancement. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't share your secrets with everyone. Put some thought into what you can do to make more money or advance professionally. A unique service that you can offer the elderly will pay off. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you act impulsively, you will make a mistake that cannot be reversed. You may ruin an important relationship if you are not fair in the way you handle matters. Make situations work now so you don't have to backtrack. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and caring. You are aggressive, quick-witted and protective. You will stand up for your beliefs and face any challenge with the intent of winning.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	6					
		2		3				
		3			9			
		9				7		
		1	2	5	7	9	4	
7				8				
6		4	8	9	1	3	5	2
	2							4
		5	3	2	4	6	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/25

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	5	3	9	2	6	4	1
3	4	1	8	7	6	9	2	5
6	9	2	5	1	4	3	8	7
9	8	7	1	6	3	4	5	2
2	6	4	7	5	8	1	3	9
5	1	3	2	4	9	8	7	6
1	5	8	9	3	7	2	6	4
7	2	6	4	8	1	5	9	3
4	3	9	6	2	5	7	1	8

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WINNING A FREE REPLAY Solution: 7 letters

W	T	R	O	P	S	P	I	N	S	S	C	O	R	E
T	O	T	R	I	P	L	E	D	R	E	T	N	E	E
P	N	R	S	I	I	E	N	C	H	G	L	Y	T	F
W	E	E	T	K	H	O	N	C	H	S	R	U	U	F
N	O	U	V	H	C	N	T	U	S	A	T	A	R	O
O	P	H	L	E	Y	A	L	P	T	U	N	A	N	R
I	R	O	S	A	M	E	B	N	G	R	N	C	R	T
T	I	E	B	A	V	C	E	(E)	A	L	O	O	E	T
A	Z	D	S	E	R	M	X	(A)	M	G	L	F	B	P
N	E	I	L	A	I	T	T	(R)	E	O	A	T	M	M
I	L	V	C	L	E	H	R	(N)	W	T	C	I	U	E
B	B	K	P	N	R	R	A	C	E	E	O	C	N	T
M	U	M	D	I	A	C	C	E	S	S	N	K	X	T
O	O	E	L	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	D	E	E	A
C	D	L	E	V	O	R	P	M	I	R	N	T	R	N

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 11/25

Access, Advanced, Again, Attempt, Bonus, Chance, Chips, Combination, Comebacks, Complimentary, Crack, Double, Earn, Effort, Enter, Event, Extended, Extra, Fortune, Game, Grant, Improve, Increase, Level, Match, Next, Number, Play, Prize, Race, Renew, Reset, Return, Rules, Score, Second, Show, Spin, Sport, Start, Thrill, Ticket, Token, Triple, Value, Video, Worthy

Yesterday's Answer: Astound

SALE: The topics of Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book, order $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE
YELLOW FLAME TREE'S
1 gallon size $20.00-$30.00
322-5691•285-6626

HELP WANTED
Looking for Sexy Dancer
• Female
• IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

WHATZIT Solution: High explosive

AVAILABLE NOW
2 B/R APARTMENT $225/MO
1 B/R STUDIO APT $175/MO
3 B/R HOUSE AVAILABLE
GARAPAN
✯MINIMUM DEPOSIT REQUIRED✯
CALL ANY TIME
233-2644 OR 532-0478
(LEAVE MESSAGE)

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

Huang Shun Corporation (Tinian)
D.b.a. Tinian Pop'z Hot Pepper
P.O. Box 335
San Jose Village, Tinian, Mp 96952

Is in need of:

1-Hot Pepper Sauce maker

Contact: Henry or Sunny at 433-0105

TOKIO MARINE & NICHIDO FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"). An Application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI will be filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. as General Agent for Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
PO Box 500168,
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Telephone: 234-6267

All the remaining liabilities as of January 1, 2010 will be transferred to Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No.	Position	Salary	Open	Close
10-003	Chief Financial Officer (One Position)	Negotiable	11/16/09	12/01/09
10-004	Technical manager for Oil (One Position)	UNG; Negotiable	11/16/09	12/01/09

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of hte Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?
Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:
- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

Benefits:
- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

ACCOUNTANT

Saipan Aquaculture has immediate opening for an Accountant. Permanent Residents or Contract Workers are welcome.

Apply in person or bring resume to Saipan Ice & Water Company Inc. in Lowerbase. Email address is spnice@pticom.com

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

T N T
DE O A E

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

www.saipantribune.com

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Late field goal gives Titans 20-17 win over Texas

AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young (10) points down the field as he rushes for a first down against the Houston Texans during the third quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 23, 2009 in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP)—Rob Bironas kicked a 53-yard field goal with less than a minute remaining and the Tennessee Titans beat the Houston Texans 20-17 Monday night for their fourth straight victory after an 0-6 start.

The Texans (5-5) had a chance to tie it, but Kris Brown's 49-yard attempt with 1 second remaining was wide left. It was his second miss of the game and the second straight game he's missed a chance to send the Texans to overtime.

The Titans (4-6) haven't lost since Vince Young took over at quarterback. He is 2-0 as a starter in his hometown of Houston after running for the winning touchdown in overtime in his last start here, as a rookie in 2006.

The Titans started the go-ahead drive at the 6-yard line, but the Texans were called for a 15-yard horse collar penalty on a tackle on Chris Johnson. A 22-yard run by Johnson two plays later put the Titans on their 41 just before the two-minute warning.

Young had a 12 yard run for a first down later in the drive but the Titans couldn't keep it going and went to Bironas for the field goal, his second of at least 50 yards Monday.

The Texans moved the ball 31 yards in five plays before Brown came in for the field-goal attempt. He missed from the same distance in the third quarter and missed one from 42 yards as time expired in a 20-17 loss to Indianapolis before Houston's bye.

Bironas had missed earlier, too, on a 49-yarder with about 10 minutes left.

Johnson finished with 151 yards rushing and Young had a touchdown pass in the first half. Bironas added a 50-yard field goal in the third quarter.

The Titans ran for a first down on a fake punt with about 5 1/2 minutes left, but were called for delay of game and had to punt it away. The punt came after two consecutive incomplete passes by Young.

The Texans couldn't get anything going on the next drive and had to give it back when a wide open Steve Slaton dropped a pass that would have been enough for the first down.

Antonio Smith got a 15-yard penalty for unnecessary roughness after taking an extra shot at a Titan after a play giving Tennessee a first down at the Houston 45. Tennessee came away empty after Young's pass on third down fell incomplete and then Bironas missed a field-goal try.

The Titans had Schaub under heavy pressure all night and he was sacked four times. He was 25 of 39 for 305 yards and threw two first-half touchdowns.

Andre Johnson got in front of Michael Griffin for a 49-yard reception on third-and-1 to get Houston down inside the 10-yard line in the third quarter. But the Texans drive stalled after that and they settled for a 26-yard field goal by Brown to tie it at 17.

Tennessee took its first lead of the game on a 50-yard field goal by Bironas with about three minutes left in the third quarter. The Titans kicked the field goal after Bernard Pollard tackled Young for a 2-yard loss on third-and-5.

A Titans drive early in the third quarter ended when Young scrambled up the middle for 10 yards before Zac Diles forced a fumble that Pollard recovered at the Texans' 16-yard line.

The Texans couldn't convert when Brown's 49-yard field goal attempt sailed wide right.

A 1-yard run by LenDale White tied it at 14 about a minute before halftime. The Titans were helped downfield by a dazzling run by Chris Johnson. He evaded one would-be tackler before bouncing off another one and spinning around to get around two more Texans for a 36-yard gain.

Houston regained the lead with a 12-yard touchdown reception by Andre Johnson in the second quarter that made it 14-7. That drive was extended when Schaub found rookie James Casey on a 32-yard reception on third-and-3 four plays earlier.

Houston took an early lead when Slaton caught a short pass from Schaub and crashed into the end zone for a touchdown in the first quarter.

Tennessee tied it 7-all when Young found Kenny Britt for a 13-yard touchdown early in the second quarter.

Ken Whisenhunt optimistic Warner may play this week

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt says he had a long talk with Kurt Warner on the flight home, and the quarterback was "very upbeat and alert" following a blow to the head in Sunday's' victory over St. Louis.

Still, Warner's availability to practice this week or play Sunday at Tennessee will depend on how he does in the mandatory "baseline test" of his cognitive functions. Whisenhunt says the test probably will be administered on Tuesday.

"We are obviously optimistic that there won't be any issues with that whatsoever," the coach said Monday.

Whisenhunt's optimism stems from his conversation with the 38-year-old quarterback on the trip home from St. Louis, where Warner made his 41st consecutive start as the Cardinals beat the Rams 21-13 to open a three-game lead in the NFC West.

"We talked about the game. We talked about this week's opponent, potential plays. He seemed very upbeat and alert, so that was a good sign," Whisenhunt said.

Warner's head slammed into the turf on a hit from the Rams safety O.J. Atogwe in the second quarter. He stayed in the game to complete the touchdown drive that put Arizona up 21-3, then left for good.

Whisenhunt says that Warner had concussion-like symptoms and would not have gone back in the game.

"We didn't know what it was for sure," Whisenhunt said Monday. "He still played and seemed to be fine, but we said 'Let's make sure' right before the half and took him out. Certainly, we would not have put him back in."

The players had Monday off and Warner wasn't available to comment. After the game Sunday, he said that he went to team trainers right after the touchdown drive to tell them things "were a little unclear."

"Personally, I felt I could have played today," Warner said after game. "But it's just one of those things, one of those 'catch 22' situations where you want to play, you want to help your team win, but you also don't want to do anything dumb that's going to jeopardize you for the rest of the season."

Warner had picked apart the Rams on three long scoring drives, completing 15 of 19 for 203 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. Matt Leinart replaced him and the Cardinals had to hold on for the win.

Warner has had head injuries before. As part of the recent Associated Press league-wide survey, he said he had four concussions in his career, two "minor" ones in the NFL, one in the Arena Football League and one non-football related while he was in college.

Whisenhunt said he pulled in the reins on the offense when Leinart went in the game.

"There were a lot of things that we didn't allow him to do because this was a team that was blitzing and selling out to try to stop us," the coach said. "I didn't want to put Matt in a position where we would potentially have a turnover or a negative play."

Leinart completed 10 of 14 for 74 yards.

"He missed some things," Whisenhunt said. "He threw one high. There were a couple of reads (that he missed), understandably. Not every quarterback is going to make every read."

The coach noted that the Cardinals lost the ball on a fumble by tight end Anthony Becht and failed to convert on a third-and-one situation.

"I think either one of those two drives, potentially, we would have scored a touchdown and we wouldn't be having any of these questions," Whisenhunt said.

Leinart acknowledged he was a bit rusty.

"Honestly, I haven't played a significant game in two and a half years," he said. "It's been a while, so it feels good to be out there where we had to do a few things. Am I happy? I'm happy we won. You know obviously I'm going to get better and when the opportunity comes I'm going to keep making the most of it."

Spurs stop Bucks' win streak behind Duncan

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs halted the Milwaukee Bucks' three-game winning streak with a 112-98 victory Monday night.

Matt Bonner had 23 points off the bench and the Spurs won consecutive games for only the second time this season. They also finally took advantage of a big night from Duncan, having previously been 0-4 when the All-Star scored 20 or more.

Ersan Illyasova led Milwaukee with 20 points. Brandon Jennings scored 12, held well below his rookie-leading average of 25.3 points per game.

Michael Redd scored four points in his first action in nine games. The former All-Star strained a tendon in his left knee when he went up for a dunk during Milwaukee's first game of the season.

Bonner was 6 of 8 from behind the arc, matching his career-high for 3-pointers in a game.

George Hill had 14 points off the bench for the Spurs, who blew out their opponent for the second time in as many games. Five of San Antonio's six wins have come when scoring 100 points or more.

The Spurs (6-6) climbed back to .500 during what has been one of the worst starts to a season in the Duncan era. They play four of their next five at home.

Hakim Warrick scored 15 points and Carlos Delfino had 11 for Milwaukee. The Bucks entered the game as the top rebounding team in the league but were bullied on the boards 46-29.

Redd played 11 minutes off the bench and showed a predictable bit of rust while playing for the first time in four weeks. His first shot was a jumper that badly missed the rim, and he finished 1 of 3 from the field and made just one of six free throws.

Bucks coach Scott Skiles said Redd returned probably a little sooner than even he expected. But the 10th-year guard fared well after getting through his first contact practice Sunday.

Milwaukee lost for the second time in nine games as the Bucks (9-3) came to San Antonio off to their best start since the 2001-02 season

Grizzlies 116, Kings 105

At Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored 24 points and O.J. Mayo added 20 as Memphis sent Sacramento to its fourth straight loss.

Marc Gasol finished with 18 points and four blocks for Memphis, which won for the fourth time in the last five games. Zach Randolph had 16 and Mike Conley added 11 points and seven assists.

Rookie Tyreke Evans led the Kings with 28 points, connecting on 10-of-18 from the field, and Sergio Rodriguez had 16 points and seven assists. Omri Casspi, the rookie from Israel, scored 15 and Donte Greene had 11.

Trail Blazers 122, Bulls 98

At Portland, Oregon, Greg Oden tied a career high with 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge also had 24 to help Portland beat Chicago.

Oden, the first pick of the 2007 NBA draft, missed one of his eight shots from the field and added 12 rebounds. Aldridge pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds.

The Blazers had five players score in double figures. Brandon Roy had 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Andre Miller scored 16 and Rudy Fernandez 13.

Luol Deng scored 25 points and John Salmons added 22 for the Bulls.

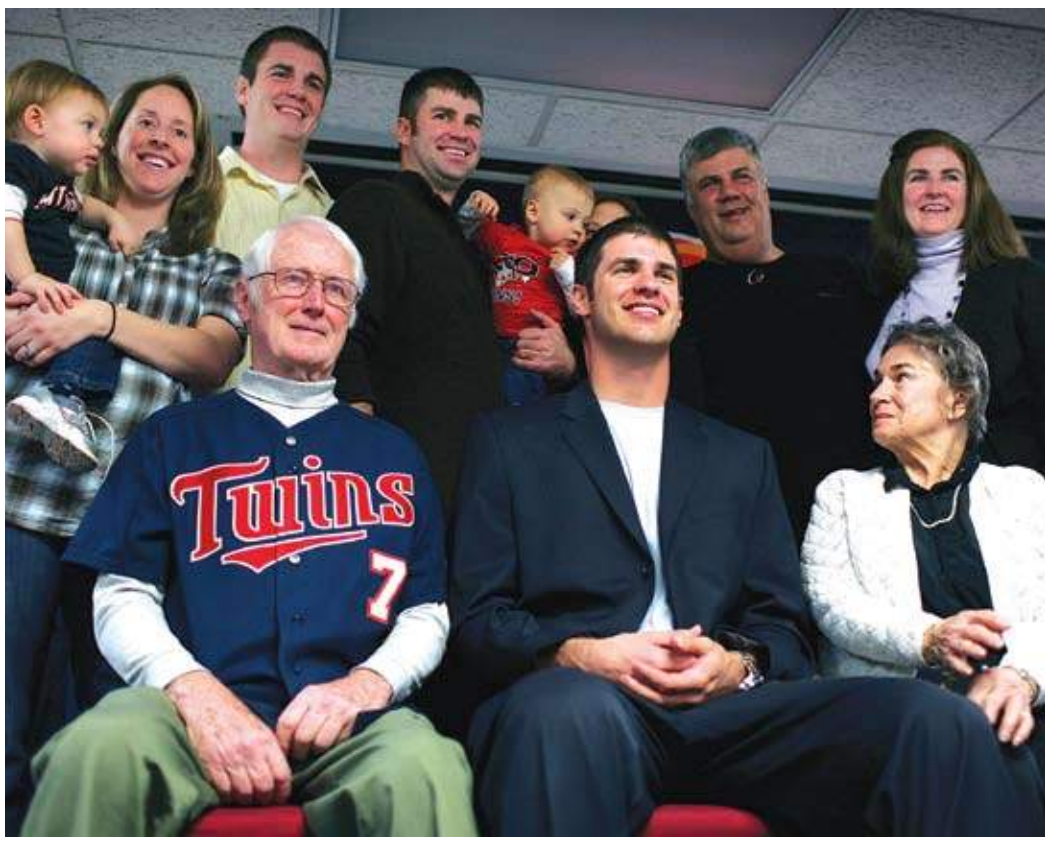
Clippers 91, Timberwolves 87

At Los Angeles, Al Thornton scored 31 points and Baron Davis made a clinching layup with 8.5 seconds remaining after missing his first nine shots to help the Los Angeles Clippers extend Minnesota's losing streak to 13 games.

Davis' streak of 468 consecutive regular-season games with at least one field goal was in jeopardy until he drove the lane for a layup after dribbling the ball for at least 10 seconds. He finished with two points and six assists in 23 minutes.

The last time the 11-year veteran point guard failed to make a field goal was Feb. 25, 2002—against the Timberwolves—when he played 12 minutes for the Charlotte Hornets and missed both shots before leaving after one quarter with a bruised chest.

Mauer near-unanimous pick as American League MVP



AP

Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer, center, and his family pose for a photograph after a news conference about winning the American League Most Valuable Player award, Monday, Nov. 23, 2009 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Mauer sat behind a table on a podium in a conference room at the Metrodome when Justin Morneau shouted out the last question of the day. "Are you finally going to buy dinner now?" Morneau said to his teammate from the audience, one MVP to another.

Mauer became only the second catcher in 33 years to win the American League Most Valuable Player Award, finishing first in a near-unanimous vote Monday.

The Minnesota Twins star received 27 of 28 first-place votes and 387 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Yankees teammates Mark Teixeira (225 points) and Derek Jeter (193) followed. Detroit's Miguel Cabrera drew the other first-place vote and was fourth with 171 points, one point ahead of the Angels' Kendry Morales.

Mauer became the second Twins player to win in four years, following Morneau in 2006. Morneau gave Mauer a bottle of champagne.

"Hopefully we can pop that open here a little later," Mauer said.

Born in St. Paul, the 26-year-old can leave the Twins and become a free agent after the 2010 season, when he is to make $12.5 million. Minnesota is expected to try to sign him to a new deal.

"I've always said it will happen when it needs to happen and I truly believe that," he said. "I'm not the kind of guy that, you know, says by this date we need to have something done."

He enjoys playing in front of his family and friends and his preference is to stay with the Twins.

"Can we win here? Yes. Definitely. I think so," he said. "And that's ultimately what I would like to do."

For now, Twins general manager Bill Smith didn't want to address the business side.

"All that contract stuff, that's for another day," he said. "I'll just say one thing: If you think if he finished second that the price is going to come down ... No."

Morneau, signed at $14 million for each of the next four seasons, usually picks up checks as the highest-paid member of the Twins. He might be losing that status to Mauer sometime soon.

"We're going to do everything we can to keep him here as a Minnesota Twin," Morneau said. "The biggest thing now isn't the money. It's going to be whether or not he feels like we can win every day."

Mauer set a major league record for highest batting average by a catcher and won his third batting title, becoming the first repeat batting champion since Nomar Garciaparra in 1999-00.

"I love catching. I love the demands that are put on me and the responsibilities that I have, although it might beat you up a little bit physically and mentally," Mauer said. "I like being back there making those decisions, you know, for my team."

After missing April with a back injury, Mauer homered on his first swing of the season and went on to lead the AL in batting average (.365), on-base percentage (.444) and slugging percentage (.587), the first AL player to top all three categories in the same season since George Brett in 1980.

Mauer set career bests with 28 homers and 96 RBIs. He had more walks (76) than strikeouts (63) and batted .378 from Sept. 13 on after Morneau's season-ending back injury, helping the Twins overtake Detroit for the AL Central title. He was voted to his third All-Star team and won his second straight AL Gold Glove.

Mauer said the injury and his minor rehabilitation assignment might have been a "blessing in disguise." He was forced to do more core work on his abdominal muscles.

"In April, I couldn't watch a whole lot of the games," he said. "I'd watch for a little bit and I'd get so frustrated that I wasn't out there."

Ivan Rodriguez in 1999 had been the only catcher since Thurman Munson in 1976 to win the AL MVP. The other catchers to win in the AL were Mickey Cochrane (1934), Yogi Berra (1951 and 1954-55) and Elston Howard (1963). NL catchers to win were Gabby Hartnett (1935), Ernie Lombardi (1938), Roy Campanella (1951, 1953 and 1955) and Johnny Bench (1970 and 1972).

In addition to Mauer and Morneau, other Twins to win were Zoilo Versalles (1965), Harmon Killebrew (1969) and Rod Carew (1977).

Mauer receives a $100,000 bonus for winning the award, and Cabrera gets $200,000 for finishing fourth. Cabrera's first-place vote came from Keizo Konishi of Kyodo News, a member of the Seattle chapter.

Teixeira led the AL with 122 RBIs and tied for first with 39 homers. Jeter was second to Morneau in the 2006 voting and finished third behind Juan Gonzalez and Garciaparra in 1998.

The NL MVP is to be announced Tuesday, and Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals is favored to repeat.

A Double Weekend & Thanksgiving Holiday

Tennis Extravaganza in Saipan

Tennis and sports fans!
Tennis action resumes tonight!

Draws are posted online at
www.tanholdings.com/tennis/
and at the American Memorial Park.

Remember, it is the PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILTY to know when your matches are scheduled. Everyone is guaranteed two matches in singles and doubles - so win or lose, always check the tournament desk and draws at AMP to determine when your next match is.

GOOD LUCK!

Junior Long Court Singles and Doubles and Adult Doubles:
November 25 (Evening), 27-29 (All Day), 2009
Only Saipan residents will play Wednesday, November 25. Off-island competitors will start, at the earliest, at 9am Friday, Nov. 27.

Matches will be played at American Memorial Park (Headquarters), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club.

Participants receive a commemorative towel, t-shirt, Gatorade, water, and banquet invitation.

1st Annual Tennis Classic

Grand Slam sponsors:

Gatorade · #1 Quality Distributors Meat • Seafood • Food Products · TakeCare · Mobil · Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Match Point sponsors:

AON · Shirley's Coffee Shop · IT&E · Continental Airlines · Hertz · docomo Pacific

Ace sponsors:

AMS Typhoon Shutters · Deloitte · First Hawaiian Bank · Pepsi · Miller Lite

Special thanks to:

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan · Pacific Islands Club · Hyatt Regency Saipan · American Memorial Park

Sonics taste first defeat in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern Sonics' streak ended after losing to the Celtics in the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament in Guam on Monday.

The Celtics, beefed up by two players standings six-feet tall, handed the Sonics a 54-40 beating in Day 3 of the annual caging. The Celtics' consistent outside shooting and pressure defense also helped the team snap the visitors' run.

"Throughout the game, they put up a full-court press defense against my boys and it disrupted our offense as my players had a difficult time setting up plays. However, I am still proud with how they played that game. They played with a lot of heart as they worked their way back from a 25-point deficit. We had to play catch-up, but ran out of time," Sonics coach Jesse Tudela said.

Adrian Palacios led the Sonics' losing cause, firing 16 points. Tristan Ecalnea drilled eight, while Melvin Cadiang added seven markers.

The Sonics took a break last night and will play their last game in the round-robin pool play in the 16-and-under division tonight against Saipan's Rollers. The Joe Diaz-mentored Rollers dropped their first two games, as they also lost to the Yigo Jokers, 30-34, last night.

Going into Monday night's game, the Sonics were riding a two-game winning run. Tudela's wards debuted with a 52-48 victory over the Astumbo Yellow Jackets in the morning game on Sunday. The Sonics had two players scoring in double figures in their first win with Nathan Oei tallying 13 points and Melvin Cadiang adding 12.

The Sonics played better in their second game, as they whipped the Yigo Jokers by 15 points, 40-25.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

from-behind win.

Saipan Fresh pulled off the victory after working its way back into the game in the last three minutes of the third period. Noni was ahead by 13 points, 70-57, when its starters were recalled to the bench, allowing Saipan Fresh to slowly cut into the lead. Back-to-back baskets from Estolas moved Saipan Fresh within four, 68-72, before Raymark Castro canned a triple to end the third period with Noni leading by seven, 75-68.

Saipan Fresh continued its uphill climb in the fourth period and finally grabbed the driver's seat on Estolas' fastbreak layup, 77-75, with 7:37 left in regulation. It was a see-saw battle from thereon before Noni took the lead for the last time in the fourth period, 95-93, after Abuel split his free throws, 11 seconds remaining in regulation.

Saipan Fresh sued for time and when play resumed, Estolas received the inbound pass, drove to the middle, pulled up for an acrobatic shot against the outstretched arms of Kae Bernardo, and made the game-tying basket.

Noni inbounded the ball with five seconds left but all Abuel could do was throw a prayer from center court, which missed that sent the game into overtime.

Bernardo scored the first basket in the extension period, but Noni failed to hang in there, as it eventually lost Bernardo and Bart Demapan due to five fouls and Abuel and Ivan De Vero missed a few point-blanked shots.

Pagarao, who tallied nine points in the fourth period to help Saipan Fresh bounce back, drilled two long jumpers in overtime and a floater that gave his team a 109-105 lead, going into the last 45 seconds of the game.

Saipan Fresh sealed the win with their hustle plays in the stretch, as Jesse Mina collared two offensive rebounds off his own misses and Gil Gapor grabbing one, allowing their team to use up the clock.

Pagarao top-scored for Saipan Fresh with 37 points, while Estolas chipped in 17. Leo Factor added 16, Mina made 14, and Gapor contributed 12.

Abuel led Noni with 24 points, but was held to only a free throw in the fourth and one field goal in overtime. Big men Bernardo and Glenn Aquino added 23 and 16 markers, respectively. Bonbon Tamayo also finished in double figures with 15, but was limited to two points in the fourth period and fouled out in the last three minutes of regulation. Another missing link for Noni was De Vero, who was scoreless in the fourth period and in overtime and had only two field goals. His five other points were off free throws.

The Saipan Fresh-Noni Saipan tiff was scheduled last Tuesday, but was rained-out less than two minutes left in the first period.

Saipan Fresh 111 – Pagarao 37, Estolas 17, Factor 16, Mina 14, Gapor 12, De Guzman 6, Opone 5, Villanueva 2.

Noni Saipan 108 – Abuel 24, Bernardo 23, Aquino 16, Tamayo 15, De Vero 9, Demapan 8, Pantaleon 5, Lerio 3, Castro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-18, 49-42, 75-68, 95-95, 111-108 (OT).

TAN HOLDINGS

From Page 28

while the girls' 14-and-under and 18-and-under age groups will feature 10 and eight players, respectively.

The adults doubles has competitions in the men's and women's 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 40-and-above, and open divisions. In the men's doubles, the 4.0 division has the most participants with 14 pairs, 3.0 has 11 tandems, 40-and-above has nine teams, and the 2.0 and open divisions have four pairs apiece. The women's 3.0 doubles has the most entries with seven, 4.0 has three, 2.0 has four, and the open has two.

The centerpiece men's open doubles will have Saipan's Kurk Schuler and Peter Loyola colliding against Guam's Torgun Smith and Wendell Roden. The other match in the men's open doubles will have CNMI coach Jeff Race and Pacific Oceania Junior Championship No. 1 player Ji Hoon Heo going up against siblings Marten and Sam Lai of Guam.

Thirteen matches will be played in the opening day of the second week of the tournament.

In the boys' 12-and-under singles, the first round matches will have Guam's Carl Chingkoe dueling Joshua Mateo at 5pm at the American Memorial Park tennis courts; Saipan's Steven Goodin squaring off with Dylan Ackerman at AMP at 5pm, too; and Colin Ramsey meeting Joel Jang at 6:30pm at AMP. There's only one game in the boys' 12-and-under doubles and will have Tony Kim and Sam Soledad battling Quintin Ramsey and Moris Villanueva at 6:30pm at AMP.

In the girls' 12-and-under singles, Sakura Imaya will face Jin Ha Park at AMP at 5pm, while Tiffany Madlambayan will challenge Julia Isikawa at 6:30pm at AMP.

Over at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for the boys' 14-and-under singles, Guam's Satoshi Ohtsu will fight Clay McCullough-Stearns at 5pm, Chris Park will duel Jake Lee at 6:30pm, and Lucas Nutting will square off against Matthew Lopez, also at 6:30pm.

Opening matches in the men's 3.0 doubles will be played at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The games are as follows: Efren Sacopla and Rolando Samson vs. Dodong Salinas and partner at 6:30pm; Mark Qui and Michael Ren vs. Paul and Joel Jang at 5pm; and Tim and Steven Goodwin vs. Edward Armia and Bob Ferrer at 5pm. The lone women's 3.0 doubles game in the first round is also set at the Hyatt with Eun Kyoung and Carol Lee meeting Sakiko Eda and Yuri Hatamata at 6:30pm.

CONFRONTATION

From Page 28

the first round, slamming the Filipino fighter down to the canvas. Folayang had a bad fall with his head hitting the floor hard. Tuck then followed it out with a couple of punches to Folayang's face before referee Tony D'Angelo stepped in and stopped the fight.

After the fall and beating, Folayang was left unconscious for several minutes even after D'Angelo removed his mouthpiece to facilitate easy breathing. Medics and a ring doctor attended to Folayang, who fortunately regained his consciousness after more than 10 minutes.

When he sat on his corner, Folayang was still clueless on what happened a few minutes ago. His cornerman explained the unfortunate incident and Folayang went on to congratulate Tuck, who handed the Filipino fighter his first loss in seven fights. Tuck improved to a 5-0 record, following his stunning win over Folayang.

Besides Tuck, other fighters recording victories in the first round were Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo, Keli Manglona, Tabby "Jay" Muna, Lionel Borja, Derrick Augenbaugh, Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, and Charles "The Predator" Aiken.

The bout between Nate "The Terrible" Flores and Maitai "The Charger" Charley was the lone fight in the night that did not end in the first round. However, it was one of the most exciting shows in "Confrontation."

Flores was hit by a low blow in the first round, but recovered and punished Charley with punches on the head and the body. Charley also had his moment in the latter portion of the first round when he caught Flores in the corner and hit him with body shots. In the opening minutes of the second round, it was Flores' turn to pin down Charley, who pulled the plug after getting hit by a barrage of punches from his tormentor.

The first title belt (middleweight) bout between Manglona and Teregeyo was also a good show, as both fighters exchanged punches and kicks before the former gained the upperhand, pinning the latter to the ground to score a victory via tap-out.

The only downturn in the much-anticipated "Confrontation" was the heavyweight clash between Mike "Ogre" Davis and Fitial. The fight ended after only 13 seconds in the first round with neither fighter throwing a solid punch. Fitial won when he pinned down Davis and put up a rear-naked choke tactic to win via submission.

MANACOP

From Page 28

and 178) wound up in 50th place, while teammates Alex Castro and Percy Omechalang (1,014 and 169) were tied at 52nd, while Capital Hill's Jared Gutierrez (1,013 and 168.83) and Raphael Zapanta (978 and 163) came in 54th and 58th, respectively.

On the women's side, Emi Williams had the best showing from Team Saipan bowlers after rolling 1,059 pins (176.5), good for 24th place.

Elsa "Gigi" Zapanta was ranked 26th with her 1,046 pinfalls (174.33), while Gloria Omechalang and Diana Camacho came in 30th and 33rd with scores of 1,019 (169.83) and 1,005 (167.5), respectively.

Pohang's Yoon Jun Sil defeated a pair of Paranaque lasses to win the women's singles with her 1,350 pinfalls, good for a 225 average. Liza Clutario and Lara Posadas finished second and third with their pinfalls of 1,335 (222.5) and 1,297 (216.17), respectively.

A simple ceremony marked the opening of the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship last Sunday at the Central Lanes.

The ceremony featured a performance by the Talent Box Company, an entertainment group aged 5 to 7 giving a rendition of Michael Kacson compilations. Delegates from 15 cities then marched past to the music by the Guam Territorial Band.

The 15 cities competing this year are Capital Hill, Daegu, Dededo, Hagatna, Hong Kong, Kuantan, Pasay, Paranaque, Pohang, Quezon City, Saipan, Shah Alam, Taipei, Victoria, and host city Tamuning.

The men's and women's doubles was held last night with the Team of 4 set the next two days. The top 16 men and 16 women in the All Events standings will qualify for the Masters finals set from Nov. 26 and 27.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	4	.714	—
Toronto	6	8	.429	4
Philadelphia	5	8	.385	4 1/2
New York	3	10	.231	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	13	.000	9 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	11	3	.786	—
Orlando	11	3	.786	—
Miami	8	5	.615	2 1/2
Charlotte	4	9	.308	6 1/2
Washington	3	9	.250	7

Central Division

Cleveland	10	4	.714	—
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	1
Chicago	6	7	.462	3 1/2
Indiana	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Detroit	5	9	.357	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	10	3	.769	—
Houston	8	6	.571	2 1/2
San Antonio	6	6	.500	3 1/2
New Orleans	6	9	.400	5
Memphis	5	9	.357	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	9	4	.692	1/2
Portland	11	5	.688	—
Utah	7	6	.538	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	7	7	.500	3
Minnesota	1	13	.071	9

Pacific Division

Phoenix	11	3	.786	—
L.A. Lakers	10	3	.769	1/2
L.A. Clippers	6	9	.400	5 1/2
Sacramento	5	8	.385	5 1/2
Golden State	4	8	.333	6

Yesterday's Games
Memphis 116, Sacramento 105
San Antonio 112, Milwaukee 98
Portland 122, Chicago 98
L.A. Clippers 91, Minnesota 87

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	13	134	117	396	30.5
Bryant, LAL	13	146	91	388	29.8
James, CLE	14	138	113	412	29.4
Wade, MIA	13	119	111	365	28.1
Durant, OKC	14	129	108	379	27.1
Nowitzki, DAL	13	119	100	350	26.9
Bosh, TOR	14	120	127	373	26.6
Jennings, MIL	11	103	44	278	25.3
Granger, IND	11	86	61	266	24.2
Johnson, ATL	14	120	55	316	22.6
Arenas, WAS	12	90	67	270	22.5
Gay, MEM	13	108	57	283	21.8
Kaman, LAC	14	119	54	292	20.9
Ellis, GOL	12	102	38	249	20.8
Gordon, DET	14	98	68	288	20.6
Harrington, NYK	13	92	59	262	20.2
Roy, POR	15	101	78	299	19.9
Stoudemire, PHX	14	100	78	278	19.9
Pierce, BOS	14	88	71	275	19.6
Randolph, MEM	13	97	45	239	18.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	80	128	.625
Oden, POR	66	106	.623
Gasol, MEM	69	113	.611
Speights, PHL	52	86	.605
Hilario, DEN	68	114	.596
Paul, NOR	85	143	.594
Bynum, LAL	89	150	.593
Perkins, BOS	58	98	.592
Horford, ATL	80	140	.571
O'Neal, MIA	71	125	.568

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Noah, CHI	12	51	96	147	12.3
Bosh, TOR	14	56	108	164	11.7
Wallace, CHA	13	28	120	148	11.4
Gasol, MEM	13	41	103	144	11.1
Howard, ORL	14	50	105	155	11.1
Haywood, WAS	12	53	79	132	11.0
Boozer, UTA	13	29	114	143	11.0
Horford, ATL	14	40	101	141	10.1
Scola, HOU	14	34	105	139	9.9
Randolph, MEM	13	57	72	129	9.9

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	14	162	11.6
Williams, UTA	11	109	9.9
Paul, NOR	10	92	9.2
Kidd, DAL	13	118	9.1
Rondo, BOS	14	124	8.9
James, CLE	14	113	8.1
B. Davis, LAC	14	103	7.4
Westbrook, OKC	14	100	7.1
Calderon, TOR	14	90	6.4
Arenas, WAS	12	75	6.3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	3	0	.700	290	164
Miami	5	5	0	.500	242	244
N.Y. Jets	4	6	0	.400	213	189
Buffalo	3	7	0	.300	155	228

South

Indianapolis	10	0	0	1.000	269	157
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	199	235
Houston	5	5	0	.500	232	208
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	209	272

North

Cincinnati	7	3	0	.700	215	167
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	231	184
Baltimore	5	5	0	.500	237	171
Cleveland	1	9	0	.100	115	263

West

San Diego	7	3	0	.700	269	205
Denver	6	4	0	.600	170	183
Kansas City	3	7	0	.300	169	239
Oakland	3	7	0	.300	108	234

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	3	0	.700	231	175
Philadelphia	6	4	0	.600	266	204
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	266	235
Washington	3	7	0	.300	146	178

South

New Orleans	10	0	0	1.000	369	204
Atlanta	5	5	0	.500	252	228
Carolina	4	6	0	.400	193	239
Tampa Bay	1	9	0	.100	164	294

North

Minnesota	9	1	0	.900	306	193
Green Bay	6	4	0	.600	262	203
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	206	225
Detroit	2	8	0	.200	181	301

West

Arizona	7	3	0	.700	250	197
San Francisco	4	6	0	.400	208	210
Seattle	3	7	0	.300	196	233
St. Louis	1	9	0	.100	113	270

Yesterday's Game
Tennessee 20, Houston 17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of Team Palau pose for a group photo before their game against Pohnpei in the play-offs of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Members of Team Pohnpei pose for *Saipan Tribune* before their championship game against SaiPal.

Members of Team Guam pose in front of a giant Budweiser can.

SaiPal brought the championship back to Saipan after beating Pohnpei in the finals, 3-2.

The Pohnpei catcher signals to their pitcher, while a Palau batter is getting ready to swing.

A Palau runner is safe, as Pohnpei's third baseman loses the ball.

A Guam player goes for a catch during a warm-up before their game against SaiPal.

A Palau outfielder throws to third base.

SaiPal's Payton Sakuma throws to outfield during a warm-up before their game against Guam.

Pohnpei's second baseman throws to first base.

Sonics taste first defeat in Guam

The Saipan Southern Sonics' streak ended after losing to the Celtics in the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament in Guam on Monday.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Late field goal gives Titans 20-17 win over Texas

Rob Bironas kicked a 53-yard field goal with less than a minute remaining and the Tennessee Titans beat the Houston Texans 20-17 Monday night for their fourth straight victory after an 0-6 start. 24

Saipan Fresh stuns Noni in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The invincible Noni Saipan is beatable after all.

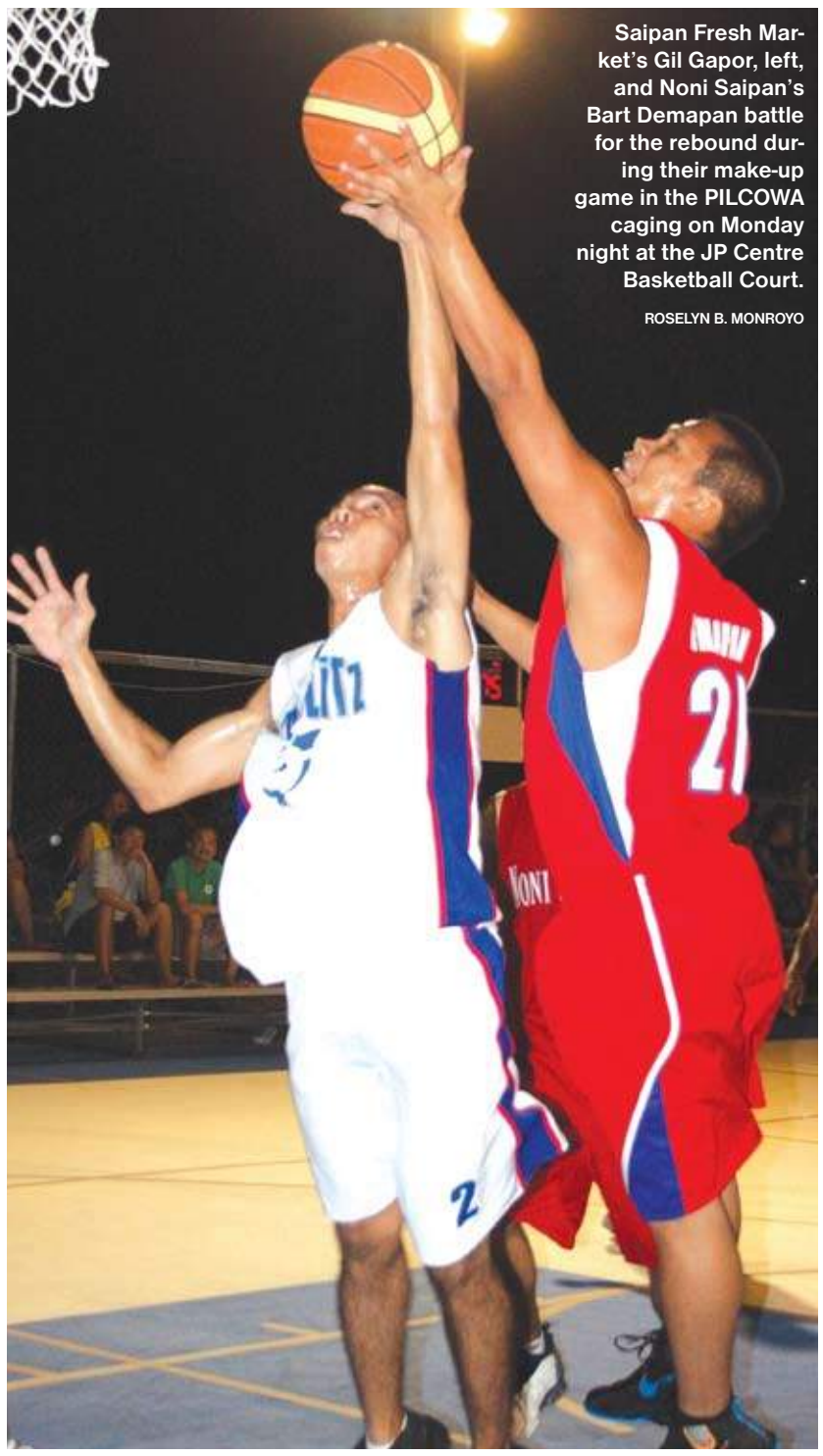
Saipan Fresh Market proved this after slipping past Noni Saipan in overtime, 111-108, during their game 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Monday night JP Centre Basketball Court.

Noni Saipan (formerly Chow Queen) reported for their make-up game against Saipan Fresh unbeaten for more than six months, dating back to its regular season and title series sweeps in the UFO caging.

The Joey Siriban-coached Noni Saipan had a chance to extend the streak, but Wowie Abuel missed a desperation shot from the backcourt in regulation, while Jun Estolas scored a game-tying basket in the fourth period and Lerio Pagarao lifted Saipan Fresh in overtime to steal the win.

Pagarao made eight points in the extension, including a pair of free throws in the last three seconds of overtime to put the finishing touches on Saipan Fresh's come-

See SAIPAN on Page 26



Saipan Fresh Market's Gil Gapor, left, and Noni Saipan's Bart Demapan battle for the rebound during their make-up game in the PILCOWA caging on Monday night at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Manacop finishes 10th in singles

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Simon Manacop barged into the Top 10 of the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships men's singles held last Monday at the Central Lanes in Tamuning, Guam.

The Department of Public Safety detective knocked down 1,328 pinfalls in six games to average 221.33, which was good for 10th place in the category.

Manacop

Manacop, who suited up for Team Saipan, was 147 pins off men's singles champion Kim Young Pyo of Daegu. Kim obliterated 1,475 pins en route to averaging an eye-popping 245.83 pinfalls per game.

It was a 1-2-3 finish for Daegu keglers as Kim's teammates Choi Suk Byung and Shin Sung Hoon came in second and third with pinfalls of 1,434 (239 average) and 1,412 (235), respectively.

Former CNMI youth bowlers Raymond Angeles and Raymond Zapanta made it to the Top 30 with the former coming away with 1,247 pinfalls (207.83) and the latter recording 1,211 (201.83). Both are playing for Team Capital Hill.

Team Saipan's Kitz Barja (1,068

See MANACOP on Page 26

Tan Holdings Classic resumes tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bigger and much tougher competition is expected in the second week of the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic as action in the two-weekend netfest resumes tonight on three tennis venues on Saipan.

The second and final week of the tournament will feature 90 junior players and more than 60 pairs in adults doubles competitions. The juniors singles and adults doubles titles will be contested by Saipan players and more than 50 netters from Guam.

The boys' 12-and-under singles drew the most participants with 35, while the boys'18-and-under and 14-and-under divisions have 15 and 11 entries, respectively. In the girls' 12-and-under singles, 11 players from Guam and Saipan will vie for the championship,

See TAN HOLDINGS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Haruya Eda goes for a return near the net during his consolation match against A.J. Hudkins in the boys' 10-and-under singles division of the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

'Confrontation' a treat for local MMA fans

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Quick, scary, and action-filled bouts marked Gorilla Warfare MMA's "Confrontation" staged at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Ten of the 11 fights featured on Saturday night were decided in the first round, one left spectators up on their feet praying for an unconscious fighter to stand up, and nine had combatants engaged in exchanges of flurry of punches and tricky grapping skills.

The confrontation between Guam's Jon "Super Saiyan" Tuck and the Philippines' Eduard "The Landslide" Folayang gave spectators the quickest and scariest bout of the evening.

Tuck scored a knockout win over Folayang in the eight-minute mark of

See CONFRONTATION on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley chokes Predators' Nate "The Terrible" Flores during their bout in Gorilla Warfare MMA's "Confrontation" held at the Saipan World Resort on Saturday.